



Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Community Life #3
Care for our Common Home

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

Human trafficking, a long-time societal curse, is an ongoing issue. As we all know, women and children are the victims who are lured into the sex trade with promises that the grass is greener on the other side. While researching on this epidemic, I was surprised that Nova Scotia had the highest rate of incidents in the country. I will provide more details in my next communique to the members. World Union of Catholic Women's Organization President informed that Pope Francis had declared Feb 8 as the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. Let us remember the victims in our daily prayers.

At the moment, I would like to focus on the upcoming Development and Peace Workshop which will be held at St. Theresa's Church on Oxford Street in Halifax on Saturday, February 22. It is from 2 pm – 3.30 pm. I have been in touch with Adah Ogbe, the D&P Animator who said that they will be promoting their theme "For our Common Home" which is similar to our theme. So the talk will focus on caring for our environment, the EARTH. This workshop is very timely; our world is struggling with issues of climate change which is causing flooding, fires, drought, pollution, littering and the list goes on. D&P will in a special way draw attention to the destruction of the Amazon, the lungs of the world. Let us attend the workshop and learn more ways of loving and saving our Godly gift. Communique was sent out to the parish councils in the Halifax-Yarmouth area encouraging them to promote it among their members and the parishioners. Another component of the workshop is to prepare us for Solidarity Sunday on March 29 when there will be a collection in parishes to support social justice activities of D&P in developing countries.

This collection has received the approval and blessing of Archbishop Anthony Mancini.

Please read his letter of January 29, 2020 on the Halifax Yarmouth Archdiocese website.

I have sent info and contact details to Janice to pass on to the Antigonish Community Life Convenor regarding their upcoming D&P workshop in March.

Now moving showing our care and support for the less marginalized in our world; Pieta Bhavan (House of Mercy), a Christian Home in Kerala, India, is home for more than 60 women with intellectual disabilities, It needs need restoration of their current water well which got contaminated from the flooding in Kerala and also the rusted well cover fell into the well making the water unsafe for consumption.

After much brain storming, the National executives agreed to partner with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association to support Pieta Bhavan. All parish councils are requested to donate to the Pieta Bhavan Project which is definitely a worthy cause. Cheques are to be sent to CNEWA, Melodie Gabriel, CNEWA Development Officer, 1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6K9, Pls write CWL India in the memo portion of the cheque. This has already been communicated to parish councils. Diocesan counterparts to obtain information as to the number of councils who participated and the total amount contributed.. Each provincial president will inform National chairperson of Community Life on the amount donated by August 1, 2020.

Summer Job Program Federal Government announced that it is accepting applications for the Canada Summer Jobs until Feb 24, 2020. Let us pray that the Federal Govt doesnot discriminate against religious organization. The Govt focus should be that the youth benefit from the summer employment. Review the program on the website and let them know if you are satisfied .

Support for the Canadian Missions of Canada must continue so that they can accomplish the much needed work among First Nations where our missionaries help them to celebrate their catholic faith. Many of the churches and rectories are in dire need of repair and maintenance or replacement. Encourage parish council to support them by contributing to the CWL National voluntary fund and making personal donations.

Most of the issues we face have a long remedial process and needs legal and government intervention for change. However, we can continue do simple and caring things like welcoming the new in our parish and reaching out to our CWL sisters who are sick, homebound or are in homes. Possibly each council can create a ministry so that our sisters who have served the CWL faithfully in their healthy years are not forgotten. Often their families need assistance and support when our sisters are in hospital and possibly reaching the end.

Councils should continue supporting the Mass for Shut In as many of our sisters benefit from watching Mass celebrated on TV.

I have received the annual report from Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Community Convenor and look forward to receiving one from the Antigonish Community chair.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide and bless us, bless our families and bless all the CWL projects.

Respectfully submitted

Catherine Gonsalves

