

Community Life Oral Report  
Nova Scotia Provincial Convention  
June 9-11, 2017  
Convention Host: St. Vincent DePaul, Dartmouth

Madam President,

I am honored to be able to present this report as your Provincial Community Life Chairperson. The duties listed under this committee gives us all the chance to make a difference in our communities, provinces, country, and the world.

I would like to thank the councils that submitted their annual reports. A summary can be found in your Convention book.

I would like to welcome Anne MacCormick as the new Antigonish Diocesan Community Life Chairperson. Thank you to Janice MacDougall for your dedication and commitment to this committee for the past two years.

In your convention bag, there is a handout regarding the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. Take the time to read it, go online at the National website, enter CNEWA in the search box. The CNEWA is the Holy Father's special agency serving the Middle East. The Catholic Women's League has partnered with this group to help Christian's in the Holy Land. Velma's Dream is an example of one of the programs.

This year Development and Peace will celebrate 50 years! The funds that are received continue to help those in developing countries. I encourage you to go to their website [devp.org](http://devp.org). Check it out. One of the links I clicked on was "Women at the Heart of Change in the Middle East". It recounts the work of amazing women in Lebanon and Syria. These women are truly responding to God's call. Remember these groups in your prayers.

"Not for Sale", Betty Colaneri's article in the spring issue of the Canadian League describes the life of girls and women forced into human trafficking. This is a problem throughout the world. Canada has been identified as a transit and destination country for human smuggling. This is a terrifying statement. We must continue to address such issues with those vulnerable to become caught up in this issue. Community outreach programs, help phones, adolescent crisis programs need support. Invite speakers to your meetings, inform others, get the message out that there is somewhere that help can be gotten. Many victims feel helpless. Provinces have programs to provide assistance for the victims. For more information, go to [www.justice.gc.ca](http://www.justice.gc.ca).

Nova Scotia has welcomed many refugees to our Province. Many communities have offered support, both financially and with physical labour as they begin a new chapter in

their lives. Do you know how they are doing? How have they been able to adapt? Do they still need assistance? I challenge each of us learn a little about the process these families have travelled since leaving their homes. Again, I suggest a speaker at a monthly meeting. Whether it is about the refugee process, or perhaps an update on a sponsored family, it should be an interesting conversation. As a side note, the Hadhad family that settled in the Antigonish area have opened a chocolate shop in town. It has become a thriving business. "Peace by Chocolate" has been featured in the June issue of Readers Digest.

I hope that some councils were able to complete some lap quilts throughout the winter. This project was initiated by the centenary committee, and I would like to ask that this project continue through to next year. As you complete each gift of love, take a photo of it and send me a copy. I want to take all the pictures and show how caring and talented the CWL members of Nova Scotia are. Remember, even though the project is being called "lap quilts", they do not need to be quilted. Whether you sew, knit, crochet, every blanket will be treasured by the recipient.

Wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety, and, wonder, all gifts of the Holy Spirit. Community Life embodies all these attributes. The Holy Spirit continues to guide us and give us the wings to help us on our journey. May he continue to bless us and bestow his wondrous gifts on us!

Respectively Submitted

Sandra O'Connell  
Community Life Chairperson  
Nova Scotia Provincial Council