



Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Community Life Communiqué # 1
Inspired by the Holy Spirit
Women Respond to God's Call

To: Diocesan Counterparts (*For distribution to all parish councils*)
From: Sandra O'Connell, Nova Scotia Provincial Community Life Chairperson
Date: January 23, 2017
Copied: Provincial President, Peggy MacNeil
National Chairperson, Betty Colonari

Happy New Year!

My name is Sandra O'Connell. I have been appointed Provincial Community Life Chairperson. I am honoured to be able to serve the League in this capacity. I look forward to working with two wonderful Diocesan Chairpersons. In October 2016, the Provincial and Diocesan executives met to plan out a path for the next two years. Janice MacDougall (Antigonish) and Dina Samson (Halifax-Yarmouth) are energetic and dedicated members of the Catholic Women's League. Their faith, knowledge, and willingness to promote the CWL is a wonderful gift that both dioceses have been blessed with. It is a JOY to be able to work with them!!

As we navigate through 2017, we are guided by our new theme "***Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Women Respond the God's Call***" - a theme calling us to action, encouraging members to reach out to others throughout Canada and the world. As a group we are powerful in what we can accomplish, so let's get to it.

The CWL supports Development and Peace by councils giving to the National Voluntary Funds each year. As it commonly referred to, D&P has been supported by the CWL for many years. Many know that funds are given each year through the 1% program, but how many of us actually know where our donations are going? In the fall issue of the Canadian League, the National Committee Chair, Betty Colonari, outlines where the funds will be distributed. Perhaps, as individual councils, we could review these projects at our monthly meetings. When we know where money is going and how it is being used, we can become more enthusiastic and thirst for more knowledge.

Discussion of the 1% donation and how that is determined could also be discussed at a meeting. Some councils will donate 1% of their operating funds through a year. Some donate personally, by taking 1% of luxuries they may purchase through a month. Donations are so important to these projects, as we journey through the next two years, let's try to inform our members about Development and Peace and continue to offer support and prayers to this great cause.

We are seeing atrocities throughout the world at this time. Canada and many countries have sponsored refugees that have been displaced from their homes. Has a group in your area sponsored a family? There was much excitement when the refugees were arriving. For some, it has now been over a year. How are they doing? What hardships are facing them? Is there a way that we can be of assistance? As Community Life Chairpersons, keep your members informed; perhaps invite a guest who can discuss the challenges and joys that they have experienced since coming to Nova Scotia.

I have seen an item on Facebook lately and I love the idea, so I am going to give everyone a challenge. Betty Ann Brown Davidson, Honorary Life Member has issued a challenge in the League Magazine (Fall Issue) for members to make lap quilts. What a great idea!!

The idea is for ladies to sew, knit, crochet, or quilt these blankets. Have a gathering, have some fun, invite friends, encourage all the women in your parishes to help. It does not need to be a full blanket or quilt, just large enough to cover your legs and keep you cozy. The blankets will be given to those in hospice or nursing homes and to homeless shelters. How many could we have done by our June Provincial convention? The challenge has been issued....let's do Nova Scotia proud!!!!

This week, on January 25, Bell's "let's talk day", is once again being offered. Bell Canada will donate 5 cents for every call, text, or by joining in the conversation on social media. Funds donated will be given to mental health initiatives. Members are encouraged **talk, talk talk!!!!**

I will be sending out Communiques 4 times this year. I hope to be able to give some ideas that can inspire councils, and members, to become active within their community, projects that bring our members together, and perhaps, invite others to join us. I am going to try and focus on different areas of the Committee with each communique. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Community Life is a large committee with many topics. Let's have some fun!!