



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
Ottawa Diocesan Council
Community Life Standing Committee



Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

COMMUNIQUE #2

SEPTEMBER 2017

TO: Parish Community Life Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Rosanne Nadon, Diocesan Community Life Chairperson

"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love"
Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Dignity and Rights of Persons

Ontario provincial president, Anne Madden, has chosen homelessness as the focus for the coming year. I am sure most of you have known someone, or heard of someone, who became homeless. Homelessness causes and consequences are complex. Historically, individuals experiencing homelessness in Canada were older, single men. The homelessness crisis we see today is much more diverse, including youth (couch surfers: those who had to temporarily live with family or friends; in their car or anywhere else because they had nowhere else to live – a situation referred to as 'hidden' or 'concealed' homelessness); women; families; women with children; seniors; veterans; foster children and Indigenous peoples. Many factors can contribute to an individual being homeless; which can make it difficult for individuals to regain self-sufficiency the longer they have been homeless". (Government of Canada, *Understanding Homelessness and the Strategy, 2016*) It is time to take action by educating ourselves and in a concrete way make a difference. In the coming months I will be giving tips and ideas on how we as a diocese can be part of the solution doing our small part, by bringing guest speakers from different organizations in the city to come and speak about the problems of, and solutions to, homelessness. Let us make a difference in someone's life. Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus here on earth.

For your information, I am listing some websites which address homelessness with suggestions for action:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-socialdevelopment/programs/communities/homelessness/understanding.html>

<http://homelesshub.ca> <http://homelesshub.ca/CommunityProfiles>

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2017/05/31/common-misconceptions-about-homelessness.html>

Hidden homelessness in Canada – Statistics Canada

Please see "50 ways to help people who are homeless"

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/events/faithcommunities/50-plus-ways.pdf>

Development and Peace

How many of your members are aware of the "1% program" through the Catholic Women's League? Please share this information with the members of your council. Did you know? Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries in the world with 60% of its population living below the poverty line? Many women in Afghanistan can't go to school due to Taliban restrictions? In Haiti, 80% of female-headed households live in poverty?

Go to the Development and Peace website and look at the faces of the women suffering in other countries and ask yourself: how can I help? The Catholic Women's League has a program called "have a 1% day." How does this work? It is putting aside 1% of any luxury item you might spend during a day, week, month...whatever you choose to do. That muffin and coffee you like to have in the morning. If it costs \$3.00 take 1% of that amount and put it aside. It amounts to: 3 cents. The lunch you go out to with a friend costs \$15.00. Take 1% of that amount and put it aside. It amounts to: 15 cents. That evening you decide to go out to a movie and it costs \$17.00. Take 1% of that amount and put it aside. It amounts to: 17 cents. Total of your 1% contribution for the day of luxury spending comes to a grand total of 35 cents. If you decided to splurge on a new dress and it costs \$75.00 – 1% of that would amount to 75 cents. Add up all those amounts and it comes to \$1.10. \$1.08 is enough to give a woman the chance to attend a workshop

in Afghanistan or the woman in Haiti to feed her children that day.

So what do you do with this money? Your council would allow this money to be brought in, given to the treasurer and once a month or whatever period your council decides on, it is sent to the National CWL office, which in turns sends it to Development and Peace. As our National Community Life Chairperson, Betty Colaneri, stated in the pamphlet on the 1% program: "One member, one council, 1% will make a difference. Be the ONE!

Through our partnership with the Canadian Catholic organization for Development and Peace, we are helping to empower women in the Global South. Our donations help build the bridge between the resources needed for success and the initiative for our sisters to take an active role in helping their families and communities.

Upcoming Event - Wednesday October 4th – Sisters in the Spirit rally – Parliament Hill – 11:30. This is when we honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Peace to all!