



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
Ottawa Diocesan Council
COMMUNITY LIFE

Care for our Common Home



COMMUNIQUE #5

JUNE 2020

TO: Parish Community Life Chairpersons
From: Michelle Morrow, Diocesan Community Life Chairperson (acting)

Greetings to all,

Wow, so much has changed in our world since my last communique. It has never been more important to stay in touch with family and friends as it has been in these last few months. And with that in mind, Provincial Community Life Chair Mary Capobianco, reminds us of her initiative she called the C.A.R.E. Connection Project. This is where we are encouraged to Communicate, Act, Respect and Engage. What an opportunity to put this into effect in these days of social distancing. In her [Directive #3](#), Mary shares a lot of information (much more than I can share here) along with a chart at the end highlighting some of the ways councils across the province have been putting this into effect. There are some absolutely amazing ideas in her list, some of which we can practice even now and others we can consider when we are able to start getting together again. What an awesome group of ladies we can call sisters in the League!!

Some of the important pieces from Mary's directive speak directly to the impact COVID-19 has had on a number of groups within our society. We've heard of the terrible toll it has taken on residents of long-term care / nursing homes and the huge challenges faced by those working in these facilities. We know this isn't anything new, but we're being faced with the realization of how much of a challenge it is with COVID-19. And we also learn of how challenging these times are for single parents, women and children fleeing violence, people in housing need, people facing food insecurities, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples and migrant workers. People in these groups, among others, are facing challenges we would not have considered before COVID-19.

Single parents face restrictions most of us wouldn't think of. They are trying to work from home while caring for their children as daycares are closed. They may be having difficulties getting groceries and supplies if the stores they frequent ask that children not be brought into the stores. And they may just simply be running out of steam and need a break.

Women and children experiencing domestic violence can be put into situations where they can not easily flee due to the social isolation & distancing, we have been asked to practice. And with the abuser at home full time, their situation is that much more difficult. Teachers are not able to see the potential signs of abuse in children with schools closed. As much as possible, we all need to try to be there for people in these situations. Mary also encourages us all to check out the site <https://canadianwomen.org/signal-for-help/> to recognize the sign for help we may witness. We may have already seen the commercial showing this sign.

These three are just a few of the groups Mary has provided information on and there are any number of other groups experiencing difficulties in these very unusual times we are finding ourselves in. I would encourage you to read Mary's [Directive #3](#) to learn of the important information she has shared with us.

And as National Community Life Chair Marie Rackley has said in her Communique #12, “may Our Lady of Good Counsel watch over you and your councils as you continue to serve.” I pray that you and your families are staying safe and keeping well.

Blessings to all,

Michelle Morrow