



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
Ottawa Diocesan Council
SECRETARY



Care for our Common Home

COMMUNIQUE #3

NOVEMBER 2019

TO: Parish Secretaries

From: Michelle Morrow, Diocesan Secretary

Greetings to all,

With our national theme of “Care for our Common Home,” we, as recording and corresponding secretaries can play a huge role in encouraging our sisters in the League, as well as family and friends, when it comes to how much we are printing. And if you’re like me, you find it much easier to read something when it’s on paper instead of on a screen. So, we print a lot of documents.

According to our previous provincial recording secretary, Mary Capobianco, research shows it can take between 450 and 1000 years for a printer cartridge to fully decompose in a landfill site and that there are 11 million ink cartridges thrown away every day. That’s a lot of ink cartridges that are being thrown out. Up to 75% of these empty cartridges are not being recycled even though 97% of materials used to make them can be recycled, resulting in a reduction of the amount of waste to as low as 3%. There are a number of places in the Ottawa area where we can return the empty ink cartridges, as well as the toner cartridges for other printers, so we are being encouraged to find out about these places and bring the ink and toner cartridges back to them instead of letting them end up in the landfill. In my area of Carleton Place, I know the Staples Store has a number of bins to bring them back to. Let’s see if we can find out other places and share them with our sisters, family and friends and encourage them to return the empty cartridges instead of throwing them out.

Mary has challenged us all to hold an ink and toner cartridge drive and quite a few suggestions on how to get started, too many to include here. Her full communique, from May 2019, is located on the provincial website at [Directive # 3](#). I encourage everyone to check this out and let’s see what we can do. And let’s share the ideas with each other. Mary would also love to hear from us so she can share with the rest of the province as well as across the country. If we’re all doing a bit, imagine the impact we could have.

From our previous provincial corresponding secretary, Stephanie Spinelli, comes a reminder to make sure to update the diocesan council when your executive is updated. Some councils have their elections in the spring, while others are in the fall. Whenever your council holds elections, it’s important to remember to advise your contact at the diocesan level of the new executive member’s name and contact information so we can all be sure to send information to the right person. Whenever possible, it is best to send the information through an email so the details can be copied and pasted in the forms and reducing the potential for errors. Hand-written notes are acceptable but care needs to be taken to make sure the information is clearly printed to avoid mistakes when inputting the information into the records. It’s by having accurate information at each level that we can be sure we are sharing information down through the channels with the right people.

Blessings to all,

Michelle Morrow