



London Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



To: All Parish Presidents, Community Life Chairpersons

CC: London Diocesan Council

From: Helga Stuermer, Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson

Date: March 2018

Directive # 10

**Let there be light in our soul, in our heart, let there be forgiveness to others,
Let there be no hostilities, which are dark. Let there be beautiful light of Jesus.**

Dignity and Rights of Persons:

In the last few months much has been written about our need to show compassion and love for those who are in sad life situations, who are prosecuted because of their religious believe, or just because they have not a single person who cares. The euthanasia issue is of a huge concern.

Archbishop Miller has this to say: **If the elderly, sick and suffering in our population feel that euthanasia is their best option, it means we are letting them down.** More than 2,000 Canadians have died of assisted suicide since the practice was made legal in June 2016; and this is just the recorded number.

*Meanwhile in the Philippines over 5,000 joined in a “Walk of Life with Mary” with Archbishop Jose` Palma of Cuba in protest against the governments violent war against drugs – as well as its questionable dealings and circumstances. Close to 12,000 suspected drug users and dealers have been mercilessly killed.

God is the beginning and the end of life: Let us protect the life from the womb to the tomb.

Pope Francis said: You can't change politics watching from the balcony. We still need to be diligent and write letters and e-mails. This still includes human trafficking, abortion, and elder abuse.

Our National CWL President wrote to our federal government, re: 2018 Canada Summer Jobs Program. Her letter can be found on the national website: www.cwl.ca. This money came from the taxpayers so it belongs to the people and applicants who need the funding for a summer job.

Development and Peace:

It has been reported that in Lagos Nigeria there have been a serious kidnapping of 195 girls. Bishop Hilary Dachelem is urging the government to work to rescue the girls. Mothers are so afraid for the safety of their daughters. We need to pray for them, because the agenda of the kidnappers is to brainwash these poor souls so they will convert to Islam.

The Share Lent campaign of Development and Peace slogan this year is: **“Together for peace”**. A quote from Pope Francis on peace that it **“will be lasting** in the measure that we arm our children with the weapon of dialogue, that we teach them to fight the good fight of encounter and negotiation. In this way we will bequeath to them a culture capable of devising strategies of life, not death, and inclusions, not exclusion”.

He also says, “Dialogue is gentleness, it is the capacity to listen, it is putting yourself in the other person's shoes, and building bridges”.

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The 4 symbols for Share Lent this year are.:

1st A Drawing of a bridge: this represent a dialogue implies a bridge.

2nd A branch, representing an olive branch, The olive branch, has long been a symbol of peace in Christianity.

3rd An agreement on paper: The word AGREEMENT represent the outcome of a peace negotiation.

4th A sign of peace: At Mass we are invited to share a sign of peace with those around us.

This is the moment when our Church asks for unity for herself and the entire human family.

The Development and Peace Caritas are a very important part of our Catholic Faith; we need to support their efforts to help those in need worldwide. Please give and help those who experience crisis. In Nigeria in the Lagos State 30 000 people were forcibly evicted; 11 people were killed in violent evictions. Defending the rights of communities shattered by forced evictions.

Give by donating online at devp.org/give and receive your tax receipt immediately; Give to Share Lent parish collection; Give by phone:1 888 234 8533; Text the word Peace to 45678 to donate \$10. It will help those in need!

Homelessness: Facts: An estimated 235,000 Canadians experience homelessness each year, 35,000 Canadians experience homelessness on any given night. Many people are in total denial of this. In our area we have shelters. One of the fastest growing demographics of the homeless population is children & families. An estimated 10% of Canadian families live below the poverty line with 14% of Canadian children living in poverty

Remember in the Gospel reading from John, Jesus on the Cross, entrusted Mary His mother to his disciples as their mother, and entrusted his disciples to Mary as her children. Pope Francis added the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church to be celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost each year. Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the congregation noted in a brief commentary published the same day, that Blessed Paul VI in 1964 had formally bestowed the title of “mother of the church’ on Mary, but that maternal care of the church and believers had already spanned centuries.

Refugees, Immigration & Citizenship: We continue to be alert and write to keep on top of developments.

May our God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit enlighten our heart so that we always know what needs to be done.

Gods Blessings to you all

Helga