



London Diocesan Council  
Of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

To: All Parish Presidents, Regional Chairperson, and Community Life Chairpersons

Cc: London Diocesan Council

From: Kathy Levesque, London Diocesan Chairpersons, Community Life

Date: September 19, 2015

Directive # 10

**Living with Limits, Living Well! .... Session 4**

**WHO IS LISTENING TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH?**

Isaiah 24 v 3 -6: "The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with the earth. The earth lies polluted and under its inhabitants, for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt."

There is a compelling cry rising from every corner of the Earth. It comes from neighbourhoods, regions, islands and whole peoples suffering from polluted water, extremes of temperature, rising oceans, disastrous storms, droughts or floods and the degradation of forests, vegetation and soil. Scientists have done many studies on many continents. They wrote: "We are now threatened by self-inflicted, swiftly moving environmental alterations about those long-term biological and ecological consequences we are still painfully ignorant – depletions of the protective ozone layer; a global warming unprecedented in the last 150 millennia; the obliteration of an acre of forest every second; the rapid-fire extinction of species; and the prospect of nuclear war that would put Earth... We are close to committing Crimes against Creation. Again, with all the speaking about the environment, who is truly listening to this cry of the Earth?"

What is the heart of the problem? One way to sum it up is to look at our crisis as an energy problem. On Earth all of our energy comes from the sun and we experience its heat each day. We transform only a small part of that sunshine into electricity. Most of the energy we use comes from fossil fuels. Nature has stored vast amounts of sun energy in the earth through the decomposition of ancient forests and other vegetation in which can now be taken out of the ground in the form of oil, gas and coal. Oil has become the central source of power for transportation by air, sea and land. It is used for thousands of different products, including medicine and food. Oil has dominated our economy and our daily lives that most people cannot imagine doing without it. It is has resulted in polluted air, lakes and rivers and destruction of forests, vegetation and soil. Green technology is being promoted and developed in many quarters. Oil companies spending millions to develop clean coat technologies.

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Chief Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan Onendaga Nation stated, "There can never be world peace as long as you make war against Mother Earth. To make war against Mother Earth is to destroy and corrupt, to kill, to poison. When we do that, we will not have peace. The first peace comes from your mother, Mother Earth."

The people can lead the way by sparking substantial change, a conversion. Change can happen if we all work together by changing the way we live. We need to change minds to grow and spread from one person to another. Steps are already being taken in many countries and cities and in the lifestyle of individuals and families. There are efforts to develop renewable sources of energy such as wind, sun, geothermal heat, biomass and hydropower.

The Earth will take of us! What is common to the many projects proposed or implemented is that they require serious institutional change. The institutional change will not benefit everyone unless it is embedded in the contest of social justice and strong respectful community. The natural environment is God's good creation. It will respond generously to human effort when its inhabitants are living by the creator's fundamental law of life: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." From Genesis to Revelation, biblical images have reminded us that the Earth rejoices to take care of us when we take care of each other, especially when we "defend the cause of the poor... and give deliverance to the needy."

We need to take care of the Earth, by giving it rest from plowing and sowing. Read chapter 25 of the Book of Leviticus. It tells us that true care for the natural environment involves a communal and contemplative. Our security does not depend on getting every ounce we can get out of the land it resources. Our security is deep-rooted in the mysterious fact that the whole Earth belongs to One who loves all of us. We can learn how to be better Earth-Keepers, and better neighbours for each.

(Text taken from Living with limits, living well.) For a copy of this book, [www.cccbpublications.ca](http://www.cccbpublications.ca)