

2018 Convention Talk

Homelessness in Huron / Perth

Madame President, I am pleased to say that homelessness is not so much an "in your face", problem in Huron / Perth as it is in the larger urban areas of our diocese. In our smaller towns we don't have as many help centres, soup kitchens or shelters, where we can physically help or donate to.

Yet we still have a lot of local citizens who require a little help from time to time. All of our CWL Councils are strong supporters of our local food banks recycled clothing and household items depots. We have many happy recipients of our donations.

Helping others in our community with a hand up comes under many names, Christmas Bureau, St. Vincent de Paul, The Salvation Army, House of Blessing, Ailsa Craig Food Bank, Second Blessings, Shelter Link and Optimism Place.

All our parish CWL councils received the list of 40 ways to help the homeless and we've all worked on ticking off some of those items on that list.

The Catholic Women's League Councils of St. Peter's in St. Joseph and St. Boniface in Zurich are strong supporters for 2 Syrian Refugee families. St. Patrick's in Kinkora also funds and supports their refugee family.

In Stratford people are supporting a local initiative to raise money to open a Homeless Resource Centre. Recently they held an art show and silent auction to raise funds.

One lady in St. Marys spends hours knitting headbands, scarves and hats to go to local recipients. Different areas are hosting community dinners for Thanksgiving and Christmas to provide fellowship to others in our communities.

We are all looking for ideas so that we can put our personal effort into ending homelessness.

One way that some of us are making a difference is to carry around some gift cards for local restaurants, that way if we meet someone in need of a meal, we can help them out.

All of us, can pray for the homeless, that they may find compassion and warmth in the generosity of others. We should also pray for all those people in our governments, municipal, provincial and federal. These people will create laws that can alleviate the problem of homelessness in Canada and someday around the world.

In this way we can live out the mission Christ gave us, "love one another as I have loved you."