



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: March 26, 2020

FROM: Marie C. Rackley, national chairperson of community life

TO: Parish chairpersons of community life

CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents, life members (on request)

My dear sisters in the League,

Members are now heading into the fourth month of 2020. How quickly time flies by!

Share Lent Campaign 2020, Development and Peace–Caritas Canada

Although there was no letter this year from Archbishop Richard Gagnon, president of the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops (CCCB), in the Share Lent package, people should not read too much into it. Archbishop Gagnon stated, “It’s a non-story, basically” and, “It just didn’t materialize this year, that’s all.” Many dioceses have chosen to continue with the annual Share Lent collection in support of Development and Peace–Caritas Canada (D&P). Before collecting or making donations, members and councils should contact their local diocesan office to confirm if a Share Lent collection is authorized. When submitting contributions, please specify in the letter that the money is not to be forwarded to any of the 52 partners under review.

Ongoing talks and discussions continue between D&P and the CCCB. Please pray that the open dialogue continues and an outcome is reached soon.

Pieta Bhavan Project (Drinking Well), India

The League has raised \$4,150 from across Canada for the Pieta Bhavan Project. The total cost is \$5,500 American, which converts to approximately \$7,425 Canadian. There is still a ways to go to reach the final goal.

Councils are asked to donate to this worthy cause by making cheques payable to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA). Send donations directly to the attention of Melodie Gabriel, development officer, 1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6K9. Please make sure to write “CWL India” in the memo portion of the cheque, or in the comment box if giving online at cnewa.ca.

Feeding Support for Catholic Schools, Ethiopia

The national executive/board met in Toronto, Ontario, on February 21st -23rd, and decided that if the goal for the Pieta Bhavan Project is reached and there are surplus donations, the League would support an additional CNEWA project called, “Feeding support for Catholic Schools in the Adigrat Diocese located in Tigray Region, Ethiopia.”

- During times of drought and food insecurity in Ethiopia, there is pressure on children, especially girls, to work to support their families.
- The feeding program in the Diocese of Adigrat helps prevent children from dropping out of school.
- Food provided at school reduces absenteeism and helps students perform at normal levels.
- Giving food to children at school helps them stay in school and concentrate, so they can receive an education and make a better life for themselves and their families.

In 2019, this program benefitted approximately 5,500 children in 31 schools. CNEWA hopes to have similar success this year. Children receive daily food in the form of nutritious biscuits—one packet containing four biscuits—during break time or lunchtime.

The project requires funding for \$25,000 USD in the year 2020. Please consider supporting this cause by making cheques payable to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, and send them to the address above. Please make sure to write “Ethiopia Feeding Project” in the memo portion of the cheque, or the comment box if donating online at cnewa.ca.

Annual Day of Prayer for Christian in the Holy Land

In 2019 on the Feast of the Holy Family (December 29th), the League marked its first National Day of Prayer for Christians in the Holy Land. This year, the League will work together with CNEWA to establish an annual National Day of Prayer for Christians in the Holy Land. The announcement will be made later this year.