

Community Life

Date: June 8, 2022



Communiqué #09

Catholic and Living It!

TO: Provincial Chairpersons of Community Life
CC: National Executive (for information)
National Life Member Liaison
FROM: Faith Anderson, National Chairperson of Community Life

Parish councils may have by now recessed for the summer; however, please ask your diocesan counterparts to ensure the information in this communiqué is forwarded accordingly to the parish councils. Then, the information can be on their radar to plan and act when meetings resume in September.

Human Trafficking

The Human Trafficking Webinar held on May 28th was well received. Presenter Joy Smith shared her extensive knowledge in this area and the ongoing need to be educated and take action to combat human trafficking. Ms. Smith confirmed that 93% of the trafficked victims in Canada are Canadian-born. She also stated that “education is the greatest weapon” in combatting human trafficking. Find various resources on the Joy Smith Foundation website at joysmithfoundation.com. Ms. Smith also referenced a bible study that can be obtained by request via email to info@joysmithfoundation.com. It is in CD format and will be mailed for free upon receiving the email request. As donations allow, the bible study will be made available online.

Pope Francis’ Pastoral Visit

Pope Francis will make his pastoral visit to Canada from July 24th to 29th. More information on his visit can be found at papalvisit.ca/. Members can also register to receive the Papal Visit Newsletter. There are costs associated with Pope Francis’ visit with Indigenous people. National President and Chairperson of International Relations Fran Lucas “invite[s] and encourage[s] councils at all levels and the over 63,000 members to make donations to help to defray these costs.” If every member donates \$1.00, it would substantially contribute to the pope’s visit. Fran also indicated that “Because many Indigenous people have deemed the papal visit to be an essential step on their journey, an investment in this visit is an investment in healing and reconciliation.” Donations by councils and members may be made directly through the donate button found at papalvisit.ca, directly through Canada Helps at canadahelps.org/en/charities/canadian-conference-of-catholic-bishops/campaign/2022-papal-visit-to-canada/, or through the respective dioceses. When sending donations to the diocese, please mark the contribution “papal visit.” Donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt. Please ask your diocesan counterparts to encourage members to pray for the success of Pope Francis’ visit.

National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21st)

This day falls on the summer solstice, the year's longest day. It is significant as Indigenous peoples and communities have honoured their cultures and histories on the summer solstice for generations. June is also National Indigenous History Month.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30th)

In 2021, the federal government designated September 30th as a statutory holiday to honour the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. This day is a vital component of the reconciliation process for the ongoing impacts of residential schools. Please ask your diocesan counterparts to urge parish councils to start planning now for ways to recognize September 30th. Consider exploring any organized activities in your respective province. By planning an event, councils will demonstrate the ongoing need to recognize the wrongs that were done and move forward toward reconciliation.

Food Bank Project

The national Food Bank Project ends on June 30th. Contributions to this project are very much appreciated and demonstrate that members have contributed to help solve food insecurity in their community and perhaps globally.

Ukrainian Refugees

Ukrainian refugees are now arriving in Canada. It is a difficult time for them as they leave their home country and, in some cases, their families to start a new life. Please urge your diocesan counterparts to encourage parish councils and members to find ways to help and support these refugees. The League's beginnings started with helping immigrants that arrived in Canada nearly 102 years ago. More than 100 years later, there remains an ongoing need to support immigrants and refugees as they adjust to their new lives. This is the League's opportunity to rekindle that flame and challenge members once again to welcome and help those who come to Canada to rebuild their lives.

The national theme, *Catholic and Living It!*, challenges each member to live their faith as Catholics. Being Catholic is to live one's faith by acting on God's call to "love one another." The national theme provides an opportunity to do what can be done when issues arise that require members to "live their faith!"

Please ensure this information is forwarded through the proper channels and send a reminder in September on timely issues. Thank you for your service this past year, and I look forward to continuing working with those remaining on this standing committee for another year. May your summer be rich, fulfilling and rejuvenating so that in September, we will be refreshed and energized for the coming year.



Faith Anderson
National Chairperson of Community Life