

Community Life

Date: September 15, 2022



Communiqué #11

Catholic and Living It!

TO: Provincial Chairpersons of Community Life
THROUGH: Provincial Presidents and Secretaries
CC: National Executive (for information)
National Life Member Liaison
FROM: Faith Anderson, National Chairperson of Community Life
ATT: 102nd Annual National Convention Oral Report
Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle PowerPoint Presentation

“We can learn much from the Indigenous Peoples,
from their ability to listen attentively to God, to persons and to nature.”

Pope Francis, Apostolic Journey to Canada, July 2022

Greetings and welcome to new and returning chairpersons of community life. It is with pleasure that we start a new League year by embracing the new structure of the League. We are in a transition time where a path to the future is before us. Together we will work through this period and support our counterparts on this journey. Please forward any necessary information in a timely manner for parish councils to take action.

The following resolution was adopted at the 2022 national convention in Kelowna, British Columbia:

2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste

Resolved, that national council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada urges the federal government to enact legislation to reduce food loss and waste in Canada’s agri-food, industrial, commercial and institutional sectors.

Please ask your diocesan counterparts to encourage parish councils to review the resolution and action plan to develop a strategy of action. Remember, resolutions of today can be the laws of tomorrow. The resolution can be found at cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Resolution-2022.01-Enact-Federal-Legislation-to-Reduce-Food-Loss-Waste-Final.pdf.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year September 30th is set aside to honour the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities—to observe this day is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

Encourage your diocesan counterparts to share the following suggestions with councils:

- Hold a day of prayer for the children, survivors, families and communities of residential schools.

- Invite a residential school survivor to share their story.
- Wear an orange shirt on September 30th.
- Use the Internet to source videos on truth and reconciliation to be shared with members.
- Begin the study of the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Helpful information can be found at www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf
- Invite the parish and community to share in some of the activities.
- Host a soup and sandwich event with a guest speaker and invite the community to attend.

Promotional resources for this day can be found at rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100013251/1534874002459#chp3. These resources include downloadable images, the meaning behind the visuals and an activity guide.

Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is also commemorated on September 30th, and individuals are encouraged to wear an orange shirt to promote the concept of “Every Child Matters.” The orange shirt has become a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle

Colleen Martin, Co-Chairperson for Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle, made a presentation virtually at the 102nd annual national convention. The PowerPoint used is attached for councils to learn more about this organization. One of the focuses was on Action 46 of the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Included is a challenge on “What can Catholic women do?” Councils are encouraged to review the information and to access the website ourladyofguadalupecircle.ca/.

Several resources developed by the implementation committee working groups are available on the national website (cwl.ca). Please encourage councils to refer to and use these documents.

#622 *Calendar of Social Justice/Catholic Social Teaching in the Church*

#624 *Catholic Social Teaching Resources*

#629 *Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers*

New brochures are available for (#350) Catholic Near East Welfare Association and (#352) Development and Peace—Caritas Canada (D&P). Both are available on the national website and can be ordered free of charge from national office. After eight years, the D&P projects have been reviewed and projects in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso have been approved. Please ask your diocesan counterparts to encourage councils to utilize these brochures to educate members on the ongoing work done by both organizations.

Faith Anderson

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National Chairperson of Community Life