

## Oral Report to 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Convention

### National Chairperson of Community Life Faith Anderson

The year 2022 began with receiving the community life annual reports from the provincial chairpersons. These reports reflect the amazing work of the grassroots of the League, the parish councils. As national chairperson, this has been another remarkable year of discovering, becoming aware of issues, and learning what this standing committee has to offer and the resources the League has provided. In short, what organization can offer an opportunity to live out our faith, live the gospel and act on important issues?

The national theme *Catholic and Living It!* brought about the Food Bank Project which ended in June 2022. An amazing \$44,319 and 38,557 pounds of food was collected and donated to food banks.

\$3,395.00 was donated to Mary's Meals and, although a smaller amount, the project created awareness on this important organization's services. It costs only \$26.40 to feed one child for a whole school year in some developing countries. Pope Francis has said, "There is always someone who is hungry or thirsty and who needs me. I cannot delegate this to another. This poor person needs me, *my* help, *my* word, *my* commitment. We are all involved in this."

A webinar on human trafficking was held with Joy Smith as keynote speaker. Ms. Smith indicated that education is the greatest weapon in the prevention of human trafficking. She states, "When we know who is most vulnerable and the signs to watch for, we can all take steps to prevent it from happening." She brought home, in her presentation, that human trafficking can be found anywhere, even in our own backyard.

To keep current on the national voluntary funds designated under the community life standing committee, there is a new Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) brochure available from national office and on the website. After an eight-year period, the projects supported by the League under Development and Peace-Caritas Canada (D&P) have been reviewed. The following projects have been approved by the national executive: Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. A new brochure will be available in the fall parish council mailing. These brochures, available at only the cost of postage, can be used to inform members on how their monetary support is used.

For the remainder of the term there will be ongoing work in truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples as members become more aware and walk the road to reconciliation. The dignity and rights of the person continues to be a concern not only in Canada but in various countries around the world. Look for a webinar on domestic violence in the coming months.

Contributions for the period July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022 to the national voluntary funds of D&P totaled \$13,123.70 and to CNEWA (formerly Velma's Dream) totaled \$10,680.45. Councils and members are to be commended for continuing to provide monetary support in these unprecedented times.