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The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE of CANADA

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MEMO

To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Community Life
From: Doreen Gowans, National Chairperson of Community Life
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)
Date: April 26, 2015

**“The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of prayer is faith.
The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service.
The fruit of service is peace.” (Mother Teresa)**

Welcome to spring! There is fresh rain to water the flowers and gardens, birds making their nests and singing their delightful songs, and Easter, a season to rejoice and be glad we are women of faith and joy. Members are Catholic women serving the people of God!

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace 1% Program

The following is stated in the 1% Program brochure available from national office: “Since 1969, the CWL has been encouraging its members to put aside 1% of the cost of all luxury and personal items that they purchase and of funds raised by councils, to go towards supporting Development and Peace partners working to improve the status of women in the Global South. Collectively, these funds are having a real impact on the lives of thousands of women striving for a better future. Together, CWL members are Strong Women Building Stronger Communities!”

Funds raised from 2013-2015 are helping women in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Haiti. Are members in your council actively supporting the initiative? For more information, order brochures from national office to share with your members. Take action: encourage members to contribute to this worthwhile venture. The Canadian Catholic Organization of Development and Peace needs all the support and help we can provide.

Wear Red on Fridays

Take action: show support for Canadian troops and their families by wearing red on Fridays. In the past most of us took part diligently, but now it seems we have forgotten to show our support. As the troops are overseas serving in Afghanistan, and as they are called to fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), it is important we let them know we care and pray for them and their families.

Community Life Workshop

As chairpersons of community life, have you shown the Community Life and Social Teaching PowerPoint to your council? It can be found at www.cwl.ca/resources/programs-and-workshops/#CL. It is worth the time to share it. Take action: present it!

Urgent Prayer Request

Encourage members to pray for the 900 families that have fled their homes in Syria to escape ISIS as it has taken over Hassake. This area is predominately Christian, located in the north of Syria on the border of Iraq. It has been reported that one member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (a ministry to the poor) has been kidnapped. Take action: pray for all government officials and a successful resolution to the war in Syria and in Iraq.

Velma's Dream

As stated on the Catholic Near East Welfare Association's website, two projects are being supported by the League The Infant Welfare Centre in Jerusalem provides critical support to at-risk teenagers for them to stay in school. The Shepherd's Field Hospital in Beit Sahour provides health care to the poorest mothers and babies, near Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Take action: pray and donate to Velma's Dream c/o national office.

Child Poverty—Keep the Promise Update

Keep the Promise (KTP) National Student Summit took place in Ottawa on November 18-19, 2014, and involved 55 students and 25 teachers from every province and territory. Delegates met with representatives of all parties. Students across Canada are taking part in various activities to spread the word and to educate politicians and the general public on child poverty in Canada. For more information on ways your council can help by contributing to this worthwhile cause, go to KTP website at www.KeepThePromise.ca. Take action: have you contributed?

Motion 534: Child Poverty

Submitted by Member of Parliament Rathika Sitsabaiesan (Scarborough-Rouge River) on September 22, 2014, to eliminate child poverty, the motion reads:

“That, in the opinion of the House, the government should work in collaboration with the provinces, territories and First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities to eradicate child poverty in Canada by developing a national poverty reduction plan that includes: (a) making housing more affordable for lower income Canadians; (b) ensuring accessible and affordable child care; (c) addressing childhood nutrition; (d) improving economic security of families; (e) measures that specifically address the unique needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities; and (f) measurable targets and timeline.s”

Take action:

1. Follow the progress of this motion through your chairpersons of legislation and see if there is any government action on it. You may also go to www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISInfo/LAAG.aspx?language “Legislation at a Glance” to view it for yourself.
2. Ask your politicians where they stand on child poverty in Canada.

Take Action: Pray This Prayer Together

PRAYER FOR CHILD POVERTY

God of all children,

We stand before you bewildered by the fact of child poverty.

We stand in frustration and shame that students are hungry,

Those homeless children sleep in cars and

Church basements because we don't provide meals at school,

Nor build enough affordable housing.

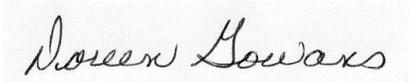
Strengthen us to honour and care for the children in our communities.

Help us to place the best interests of children first.

In the name of your child, Jesus.

Amen.

*With permission of the author Carolyn Pogue – March 17, 2015



Doreen Gowans
National Chairperson of Community Life