



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: April 11, 2022

FROM: Faith Anderson, national chairperson of community life

TO: Parish chairpersons of community life

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

The *Vatican News* reported that “Pope Francis reiterated his appeal to silence the weapons, saying that ‘God is with the peacemakers, not with those who use violence!’ and that ‘ordinary people want peace.’”

Catholic Near-East Welfare Association (CNEWA)—Invasion of Ukraine

As I write this memo, the threat of a complete invasion of Ukraine is constantly in the news. Members see the early results of the Russian invasion and the plight of many Ukrainians fleeing, including the elderly and families with children. As Canadians, our thoughts turn towards how we can help. Through CNEWA, support can be channelled to Caritas Ukraine. Donations will equip local Caritas centres to welcome the displaced—purchase food, medicine, blankets, clothing, etc. Check with the local Ukrainian Catholic church to see if they have a project to support the people of Ukraine. Please ensure your contributions go to a reliable organization. CNEWA indicates that a generous family from Alberta has matched all donations supporting humanitarian aid in Ukraine up to \$500,000. To donate, visit cnewa.org/ca/donate/. Please continue to pray for Ukraine and its people.

Resources

Calendar of Social Justice/Catholic Social Teaching in the Church (#622): This resource cites important dates to remember pertaining to Catholic social justice. Included are commemorative days declared by the church, the League or the United Nations and other organizations. This calendar can be used by councils to plan yearly activities and members for their personal prayer and celebrations

Catholic Social Teaching Resources (#624): This document includes PowerPoint presentations, papal documents, films, websites, videos, speakers and scripture quotes. The Prophets Among Us section includes several people who dedicated their lives to Catholic social teaching.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers (Catholic social teaching) (#629): This document provides various resources to search, including books, movies, podcasts, YouTube, songs and scriptures. Also included is a Prophets Among Us section to read their stories and be inspired.

Trafficking of Women and Children Workshop (#824): Parish councils can use this workshop as an opportunity to discuss human trafficking.

The listed documents are filled with information and resources for councils to engage in topics of interest and educate members. All documents are available on the national website (cwl.ca).

Food Bank Challenge: Has your council participated in the Food Bank Project? The collection of items will continue until **June 30, 2022**. Be sure to send in your count to be included in the final report. A suggestion is to keep an ongoing running count of the items collected and do the conversion at the end of the collection. The Canadian Women's Leadership Foundation indicates that more than 1.5 million women in Canada live in poverty. Based on the Market Basket Measurement, if a family does not have enough income to purchase groceries or goods for a basic standard of living in its community, the family lives in poverty. This varies across Canada based on the cost of living.

Human Trafficking: In 2014, Vancouver Archdiocese established the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee with the primary goal to educate and raise awareness of the reality of human trafficking in society. St. Michael Parish Council (Calgary) developed the initiative IWIN (I'm Worth It Now) that raises awareness and assists human trafficking survivors by providing them with backpacks filled with personal products. What is available in your diocese? What can your council do to help prevent human trafficking and support the survivors? National Human Trafficking Awareness Day was recognized on February 22nd. In addition, the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking operates the **Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline**, a confidential, multilingual service that is available 24/7. If you suspect that you or someone you know may be being exploited, if you want to access support, or if you want to learn more, call (833) 900-1010 or reach out via chat at canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca.