

## **Community Life Chairperson Faith Anderson**

Thank you to parish councils for completing the annual survey. These reports only reflect in part what councils across Canada accomplish in the standing committee of community life. It is clear that councils and members have recovered from the pandemic and have ‘rolled up their sleeves’ and have once again emersed themselves in what they do best—be supportive and take action.

As chairperson of community life, this has been an opportunity to work with some amazing provincial chairpersons of community life and subcommittee members. Through our monthly meetings, we have been able to share information, plan activities and be sounding boards for one another. We learned together! I now have a face to put to the names because of the monthly virtual meetings.

A webinar on domestic violence was held on February 11, 2023, with Pam Hadder as keynote speaker. Pam is a community coordinator and leadership team member for Willow Place Inc., Manitoba’s largest and most utilized family violence shelter provider. Following the webinar, Pam shared several initiatives that councils could participate in or contribute to in order to address the domestic violence issue. Please refer to the community life communiqué of February 14, 2023 for complete information.

In one of the meetings with the provincial chairpersons, I warned them that I am a ‘project’ person. Thank heavens they embraced my vision and supported the Kindness Rock Project. The vision was to have a project that would bring members together in a fun activity and share some kindness with their community. The photographs received reflect the spirit of the project. There are many smiling faces and beautiful artworks that hopefully will bring a smile to someone’s face.

A joint project with the national chairperson of spiritual development resulted in the Rosary of Reconciliation, which was held on June 21<sup>st</sup>, National Indigenous Peoples Day. For generations, many Indigenous groups and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage during the summer solstice. This was a time to pray and reflect on reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. The provincial chairpersons and subcommittee members participated in the Rosary presentation.

Contributions for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 to the national voluntary fund of Development and Peace totalled \$18,409.15, an increase of \$5,285 over last year. Contributions to Catholic Near East Welfare Association’s fund (formerly Velma’s Dream), totalled \$12,882.31, an increase of \$2,201.86 over last year. Congratulations to councils and members for their continued support of these two national voluntary funds. Along with these funds, I am sure many members supported these organizations personally. In the May 14, 2023 issue of *The Catholic Register*, Velma Harasen, Past National President and founder of Velma’s Dream stated, “... Despite the hardships she witnessed [in the Holy Land], she was nevertheless encouraged by the spirit of hope among the Christians she encountered.” Both of these voluntary funds provide hope for the people in developing countries and the Holy Land.

A resolution was received from Manitoba Provincial Council titled Creating Awareness Surrounding Fast Fashion. This resolution is being forwarded to the national chairperson of social

justice for education and awareness, according to the request in the resolved clause. Another resolution was received from the Military Ordinariate Provincial Council titled Support for the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security. The education component of this resolution regarding child soldiers has merit and as requested in the resolved clause, is being forwarded to the national chairperson of social justice for education and awareness of members.

In conclusion, serving as national chairperson of community life has been rewarding, enriching and educational, and I feel richer for the experience. It has been truly an honour to be of service to the League.

This concludes my report. †