



Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

Communique No. 5

Date: January 16, 2017

To: Chairperson of Community Life Committee / Parish President / Provincial President / Provincial Executive / Life Members
National Community Life Committee

From: Barbara McGrath, Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

Dear Members of the League,

Welcome to 2017. I sincerely hope that your Christmas was a happy and holy time for you and your families. I am sure you are all ready to begin the New Year with hope and a renewed enthusiasm to continue the important work of the Catholic Women's League.

First of all, we have all been introduced to the new national theme, ***Inspired by the Spirit, Women respond to God's Call***. This theme again challenges us to continue the work we do to help improve the life of vulnerable members of our communities. During the Christmas season we witness so much good work in communities all over the island. Members of the Catholic Women's League are well known for being at the forefront of many acts of mercy during this time and this year has been no exception. All of you who respond to the call need to be commended. You are all "Inspired by the Spirit" and always "Respond to God's Call".

Seniors

As you are all aware, our provincial Government has informed us that it will be appointing a Seniors Advocate sometime in the early spring. Apparently, the work of setting up this office is ongoing. It is very important that we encourage our seniors to avail of this service when they need to so the advocate is made aware of the difficult situations many of our elderly people are coping with every day. We need to continue to make our voices heard.

Development and Peace: Strong Women Building Stronger Communities

The important work of Development and Peace continues and it is very important that councils continue to support by submitting their donations to national as one of the ways we respond to the hope of people who need our help. Together with Development and Peace, we can help women of Afghanistan, Haiti and Sierra Leone obtain the skills they need to become stronger voices in their communities. Solidarity teaches us that we are one human family and we work for peace and development of all nations.

The following is an excerpt from a communique from our National chairperson of Community Life:

"Today being the 103rd World Day of Migrants and Refugees, I would love and appreciate hearing how your province, dioceses, parishes celebrated this or brought it to the attention of parishioners. e.g. A mass dedicated to migrants and refugees.

The message from Pope Francis can be found on the Vatican website, w2.vatican.ca.

The following is from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops website:

"The 103rd World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated January 15, 2017. The theme of Pope Francis' Message is "*Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless*". In his Message, the Holy Father wants "to draw attention to the reality of child migrants, especially the ones who are alone. In doing so I ask everyone to take care of the young, who in a threefold way are defenceless: they are children, they are foreigners, and they have no means to protect themselves. I ask everyone to help those who, for various reasons, are forced to live far from their homeland and are separated from their families."

I know that Jan 15th has already passed but the message and call to action is very important to all of us and we can still celebrate in some way.

It was indeed great to read about St. Thomas of Villa Nova's project for the newborn babies at Eastern Health and their acknowledgement of Shirley McGrath who completed 200 hats. Bravo Shirley! It is so important that we share and celebrate the good work councils are doing throughout the province.

Thank you to councils who have submitted their reports on line.

God Bless,
Barbara McGrath