



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL  
LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE



*ONE HEART, ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION*

DIRECTIVE # 4

Pages:2 + Attachments: 1

February 17, 2016

To: Diocesan Legislation Standing Committee Chairpersons  
From: Carol Richer, Ontario Provincial Council Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson  
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, Provincial Legislation Sub-committee member,  
and National Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson

\*\*\*\*\*

***"Manifest God's love to the little, to the poor,  
to every person in every corner of the earth"***

I have received your Annual Reports, and there is obviously much being done across the province to change things that we see as unjust, unfair and against the teachings of the Church. While much emphasis has rightly been focused on Hospice and Palliative Care as an alternative to Physician Assisted Dying, other issues are also being addressed. With one heart, one voice and one mission, our aim has been to ensure social justice for all.

Through your reports and from the reports given by diocesan presidents at the recent provincial meeting, we were made aware of the wonderful works that dioceses have undertaken in relation to their 'blesseds project' as well as a variety of other social justice projects.

In November you were sent a Memo introducing you to the chosen Saint for the Legislation Standing Committee for the Year of Mercy project. At the recent provincial meeting, diocesan presidents were given a prayer card to be given to their diocesan Legislation chairperson. You will see that the ending has been modified to identify that Saint Laura is the chosen Saint of our standing committee, asking that she intercede for us as we work to carry out League resolutions and to influence government social justice policy. Please make an effort to pray this prayer daily.

St. Laura's life story (attached) exemplifies the fourth Beatitude ...' *Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after justice; for they shall have their fill*'. Her work with the indigenous people of South America certainly demonstrates social justice in action.

The purpose of this directive is to update you on the Year of Mercy project as it relates to our standing committee.

Since my memo of November 19, 2015, the aim of this project has been clarified. From the information in my memo, you may have concluded that you were being tasked with another assignment on top of your diocesan 'blesseds' project. This is NOT the case, and the confusion was caused by my misunderstanding of what was expected. It is obvious from your annual reports that much of the work being done in the dioceses/parishes dovetails with the Beatitudes and the work of St. Laura. There is no need for you as Legislation Chairpersons to take on additional projects... simply continue with what you are doing, and doing well!

As Legislation Standing Committee Chairpersons we are called upon to encourage members to carry out the action plans of League resolutions.

Resolutions ON.14.02 and ON.11.01 relate to our First Nations Peoples. Continue to encourage councils to write letters to Members of both the Federal and Provincial Governments voicing views and concerns about the treatment of First Nations Peoples; to invite speakers to meetings to address issues facing First Nations Peoples; to reach out and welcome First Nations Peoples in our communities, inviting them to share their concerns, crafts, etc. at a parish meeting or function.

Resolutions ON.15.04, ON.13.01, ON.09.05, ON.08.02 and ON.99.06 are some that urge us to hear the cry of the poor, to feed the hungry, to advocate for justice and to support life and dignity for all. (*All resolutions can be found on the provincial website*). Encourage members to volunteer at food banks, nursing homes, women's shelters, etc. Make a sincere effort to get to know the clients and to minister to their spiritual and corporal needs. Councils should support the Temporary National Voluntary Fund for the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, to assist in their fight against Physician Assisted Death. Let the voice of the League be heard not only by members, but by everyone in our parishes... with the pastor's permission arrange for copies of OPC Bulletins to be placed in the weekly bulletin, encouraging all to take action when the need arises.

St. Laura's Feast Day is October 21. Plan ahead. Encourage parish council Legislation Chairpersons to recognize it by perhaps reading her story as their report at the October meeting. They might also offer a Mass in her honour.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Laura inspire and guide you as we celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

*Carol Richer*

Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson  
Ontario Provincial Council of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada