



Ontario Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Community Life Standing Committee

ONE Heart, ONE Voice, ONE Mission

Directive #5

Pages: 2

April 2016

To: Diocesan Community Life Standing Chairpersons
From: Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Provincial Community Life Chair
CC: Ontario Provincial Officers, Diocesan Presidents, Bishop Colli and National
Community Life Standing Chairperson
Mary Hawkey, Margaret Van Meuwen, Sub-Committee

Attachments: 3

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All the dioceses in Ontario are planning their annual conventions and parishes are winding down with most councils having just two meetings left before the summer. Some councils take this time to distribute some of their funds to charities that they support. This is a reminder to keep the 1% program for Development and Peace on your council's list. Development and Peace is assisting the refugees in the camps and helping with the recent natural disasters that have taken place around the globe. Help them to be agents of mercy.

Colleen Martin, Ontario Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson in her Directive #5 had a marvelous suggestion for all councils across the province to participate in. Here in her words:

Struggles of Cross Lake Nation and Attawapiskat First Nation

Young people in these communities are struggling with many social issues in their communities and many have attempted suicide while others have taken their lives. There has been a plea for prayers and cards/letters of support from the youth of these communities. Perhaps you could encourage your parish counterparts to make a poster or write positive messages into cards or if you have the "I prayed for you cards" from Chalice those would be great. The addresses to send positive messages to are:

Youth in Cross Lake, Cross Lake Band Office, P.O. Box 10, Cross Lake, MB R0B 0J0

Youth in Attawapiskat, Payukotayno Administrative Office, 50 Bay Road

P. O. Box 189D, Moosonee, ON P0L 1Y0

If you write 20 letters, take a picture and post it to social media with the hashtag #motherlove....a group in Ottawa is tracking the response.

Also please keep in contact with your elected representatives in both the federal and provincial government that things must change for our indigenous people. This is now a hot topic in the media, keep the pressure on to make sure there is effective and sustaining change. I have 3 attachments with this directive-CCCB Responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Catholic Response to Call to Action 48, Catholic Response to Doctrine of Discovery and TN plus Interview with Bishop Bolen on March 24, 2016. Review these with your councils and have discussions on what each of us can do to make a difference. In this Year of Mercy, these articles are very timely.

In the Trillium News and Views Community Life article there was an error. The prayer created for St. Joseph Vaz by Mary Hawkley and myself was only partially printed. Here is the complete prayer:

O dedicated servant of God who brought Christ to the people of
Sri Lanka, pray that we may follow your example.
and work every faithfully to achieve peace
with our neighbours both home and abroad.
Guide us to proclaim the message of the Gospel by our words
and actions so that we may
"Always live according to God's inspiration."
Amen

In the remaining months of this Year of Mercy, may the inspiration of St. Joseph Vaz give us the courage and strength to continue with our actions and prayers.

Blessings and peace,

Wilma