



**Ontario Provincial Council
of The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Spiritual Development Standing Committee**



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

Directive #1

Pages: 2

September 2017

To: Diocesan Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Anna Tremblay, Ontario Provincial Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairperson
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, National Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairperson
Sub-committee member: Sharon St Jean
Attachment: List of Diocesan Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairpersons

"Let us be 'protectors' of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment." —Pope Francis

Greetings dear sisters in the League.

What a joy it is to have been gifted with the spiritual development standing committee and I look very much forward to working together with you in the coming year(s). A special 'thank you' to Sharon St Jean for accepting to work with me as a sub-committee member.

You have probably already guessed, from the quote chosen above, that *Laudato Si'* and care of the environment will be a strong focus during this term. Pope Francis has made it clear that it is the responsibility of each and every one of us to safeguard creation. Since the issue of *Laudato Si'* in 2015, Pope Francis has called on all mankind "to care for the earth so that it may continue, as God willed, to be a source of life for the entire human family." To that end I encourage you to read "Living Out *Laudato Si'*: A Commentary and Practical Resource for Canadian Catholics." The 30-page document, which is available only online, can be accessed on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) website at www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/Living_Out_Laudato_Si_En.pdf. It is well organized into six parts which could easily be studied individually or as a group at meetings. Consider bringing this document to the attention of all members and/or having copies available at meetings for those who may not have internet access.

After witnessing the recent devastation by Hurricane Harvey these past weeks, I could not help but wonder what happened to those living on the streets, those who are already homeless. I was moved to tears seeing pictures of vulnerable seniors

in a nursing home sitting for hours in water. Climate change affects everyone, but particularly the poor and vulnerable of our society and we “must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it.” - Pope Francis

Provincial president Anne Madden has asked us to focus on **homelessness** during her term. Perhaps diocesan and parish councils could learn and discuss what causes a person to be homeless and perhaps study what options are available. Homelessness has many faces: youth, women with children, seniors or First Nations. Each area of the province has unique and individual needs and issues. Please choose what will have a significant impact in your region. Some websites that address homeless with suggestions for action are:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/communities/homelessness/understanding.html>
<http://homelesshub.ca/>
<http://homelesshub.ca/CommunityProfiles>
<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2017/05/31/common-misconceptions-about-homelessness.html>

Attached is a contact list of the diocesan spiritual development standing committee chairpersons to be used exclusively to fulfil your duties as Spiritual Development Chair. It is crucial that you **never disclose this information to another party without the express, written consent of the individual whose contact information you are wanting to share**. Always remember to “bcc” so that email address is not visible.

In closing, I respectfully invite you to share your prayer programs with me, particularly the prayers used at your diocesan meetings and conventions. To this end, I hope to use them, with your permission and participation, at the 2018 provincial convention in Toronto.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. I look forward to ‘meeting’ you over the coming year.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide and support us as we journey together, responding to God’s call, inspired by the Spirit.

Your sister in service,

Anna