



**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 #2

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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 Jacqueline Nogier
Sub-committee members: Sharon St Jean, Margie Royle

"As long as Lazarus lies at the door of our
homes,

On June 13, 2017, Pope Francis named the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time the World Day of the Poor. The inaugural *World Day of the Poor* will be celebrated November 19, 2017. What can we do to mark the World Day of the Poor? Pope Francis shares several ideas in his recent message about the day, including that parishes should spend the week leading up to the day creating moments of "encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance" with people who are poor:

"It is my wish that, in the week preceding the World Day of the Poor, which falls this year on 19 November, the Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time, Christian communities will make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance. They can invite the poor and volunteers to take part together in the Eucharist on this Sunday ... This Sunday, if there are poor people where we live who seek protection and assistance, let us draw close to them: it will be a favourable moment to encounter the God we seek." — Pope Francis

FIVE WAYS TO OBSERVE THE WORLD DAY OF THE POOR:

1. **PRAY FOR THE POOR.** There are so many people who need our prayers. If you're overwhelmed and not sure where to start, try praying with your newsfeed. As you see headlines about what's happening around the world, pause and pray for the people affected by those stories.

2. PRACTICE THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY. The Corporal Works of Mercy are drawn from Jesus' life and teachings. They call us to: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and imprisoned, bury the dead and give alms to the poor. Pope Francis added a new work of mercy: to care for God's creation. The Corporal Works of Mercy offer a clear model and starting point for how to care for our neighbours in need.
3. MAKE CARING FOR THE POOR PART OF YOUR ROUTINE. Do you buy coffee, chocolate or Christmas gifts? One way to support low-income workers around the world is by buying things you use on a regular basis from organizations that pay a fair wage. If you drink coffee or tea, look for a fair trade label, which means that the farmers who harvest the coffee or tea are paid fairly and work in safe conditions. As you begin your Christmas shopping, consider buying gifts from around the world that are produced and traded ethically.
4. LEARN ABOUT THE CAUSES OF POVERTY AND WORK TO CHANGE THEM. There are many reasons why people around the world are trapped in poverty: lack of jobs, war and climate change that affects what farmers can grow are only a few examples. We can raise our voices together to ask our government to support policies that help address these causes of poverty.
5. BRING THIS INFORMATION TO THE ATTENTION OF YOUR PASTOR and ask him to promote this inaugural World Day of the Poor.

Your sister in service,

Anna