



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

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



Directive #9

December 2018

**To:** Diocesan Community Life Standing Committee Chairpersons  
**From:** Joanna Sisk, Ontario Provincial Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson  
**cc:** Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, National Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson. Provincial Spiritual Advisor

Dear Diocesan Community Life Chairperson,

Thank you for your generous response to the Warmth and Comfort Project which began October 1st and continues until the end of December. Many have counted and responded to our request for the number of socks, jars of peanut butter and crackers. but we are looking forward to having a provincial count by mid January. Please send the number, pictures and stories of your projects to our Provincial Communications Chairperson. Send to Marie Theresa [mtlamphier@gmail.com](mailto:mtlamphier@gmail.com) to be shared. It is understood that all dioceses are currently doing great projects. I am very proud of what we are doing for the homeless.

Christmas for some is just another day of struggling to survive. The great simplicities we take for granted like having a family to go home to are the luxuries the homeless can only dream of.

Asking some of the homeless on the streets of Ottawa what could be done to make their Christmas better. Many had the same response: someone to talk to and see them. The sheer human act of talking to these people and letting them be heard means the world to them.

The story of Christmas witnesses and gives hope to the homeless and displaced of the world. The tragic events unfolding in places around the world and here in Canada remind us that Mary and Joseph became displaced and homeless persons who also sought refuge. Millions today face the same plight.

It's sad to say that after two thousand plus years, with the peoples of the world looking forward with great expectations, injustice to our planet and political unrest continue to force many people from their homes and homeland.

Pray in solidarity with the Holy Family for all the peoples on the move this season.

The following reflection is by an anonymous author

Christmas Eve:

Irish tradition says that the Holy Family still travel throughout the world this night seeking shelter...

Is there room for them at your inn?  
at my inn?

Can you see them pass by?

Joseph lost in thought...

Mary tired and heavy with child...

Can you see their eyes looking out at you from the eyes of

the homeless,

the poor,

the excluded,

the refugee,

the immigrant,

the elderly,

the child,

the lonely,

the victim of war,

the abused,

the hungry,

the persecuted,

the one you have already judged,

the one I have already judged...

If you would recognise them

then

slow down,

let your hands unclench,

simply breathe,

and

light

a candle

of welcome

in the

window

of your soul...

As the old poem put it...

"Often, often, often

goes the Christ

in the stranger's disguise".