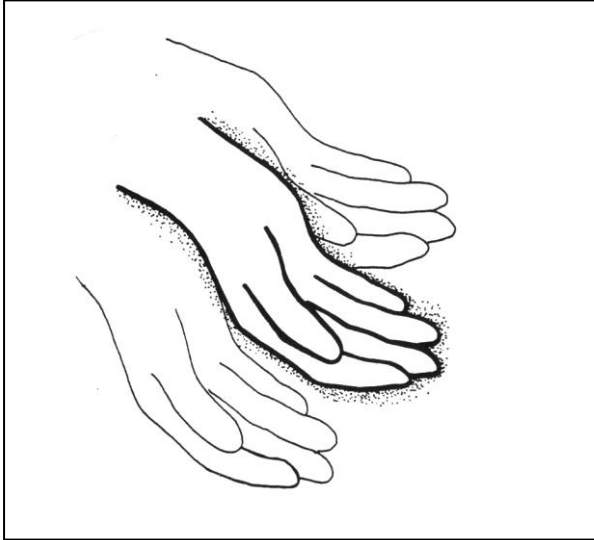




# Community Life

## Quick Start Reference Guide



***Wherever there are people in need of food and drink, clothing, housing, medicine, employment, education; wherever (people) lack the facilities necessary for living a truly human life or are afflicted with serious distress or illness or suffer exile or imprisonment, there Christian charity should seek them out and find them, console them with great solicitude, and help them with appropriate relief. This obligation is imposed above all upon every prosperous nation and person.***

**(Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity)**

## **Instruction**

### ***ROLE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE*** ***Community Life***

The **Community Life Standing Committee Chair** duties include:

- a. Dignity and rights of persons
- b. Social and economic justice
- c. Refugees, immigration and citizenship
- d. Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) – and Developing countries

An explanation for each of the Community Life Standing Committee duties is covered in depth in The Executive Handbook.

The following are suggestions for activities under each of the sections for Community Life. The intent of the following list is to provide ideas for this standing chair. Consider choosing one or two activities best suited for your council, parish and community.

**a. Dignity and Rights of Persons:**

- ❖ Support and assist charitable causes, including children's drop-in centres, blood donor clinics, meals on wheels, bereavement clinics, women's support groups, clothing drives, addiction centers, mental health centers, etc.
- ❖ Encourage members to participate in the work of organizations caring for those in need.

- ❖ Support programs addressing families in crisis, women's shelters, etc.
- ❖ Become knowledgeable about human trafficking and its prevention through workshops, education programs, distribution of brochures, videos, speakers.
- ❖ Educate members and sponsor programs dealing with the effects of bullying.
- ❖ Volunteer in personal care homes, provide assistance with daily routines for seniors.
- ❖ Conduct programs focusing on the rights of seniors and elder abuse.
- ❖ Study Legislation and Resolutions relating to dignity and rights of persons, and follow action plans with letter writing, etc.

**b. Social and Economic Justice:**

- ❖ Support food banks, soup kitchens, community and school lunch and breakfast programs,
- ❖ Write letters to all levels of government in support of Resolutions pertaining to social justice.
- ❖ Lobby government, through personal contact and letter writing, to improve living conditions for the poor, to ensure access to clean water, etc.

**c. Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship:**

- ❖ Assist members with immigration, refugee or citizenship issues such as completing forms, contacting various government agencies, etc.
- ❖ Welcome new immigrants into the community with receptions and helping to celebrate citizenship ceremonies.
- ❖ Participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies, parades, laying of wreaths.

- ❖ Billet foreign students.
  - ❖ Arrange transportation for immigrant workers to attend Mass; invite them to participate in parish activities.
- d. Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) and Developing Countries:**
- ❖ Support Share Lent programs.
  - ❖ Send letters to members of parliament regarding issues such as water privatization, mining etc.
  - ❖ Become knowledgeable through study about the economic difficulties of developing countries.
  - ❖ Assist those in developing countries: support agencies such as Canadian Food for Children, Save the Children Fund, Foster Parents, Habitat for Humanity, Child Care International, Save a Family Plan, Operation Eyesight, Operation Christmas Child, Doctors Without Borders etc.
  - ❖ Invite speakers to speak on issues such as water shortage in West Africa, deaths caused by water borne illness and disease, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*

## List of Reference Materials

<b>Constitution &amp; Bylaws 2013</b>
<b>Executive Handbook</b>
<b>National Manual of Policy and Procedure</b>
<b>Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) - <a href="http://www.cccbpublications.ca">www.cccbpublications.ca</a></b>
<b>Canadian League Magazine</b>
<b>League Website – <a href="http://www.cwl.ca">www.cwl.ca</a></b>

