



Ontario Provincial Council Community Life - Directive #2

Care for our Common Home

Directive # 2

November 1st, 2019

To: Diocesan Community Life Standing Chairpersons
From: Mary Capobianco, Ontario Provincial Council, Community Life Chairperson
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers,
National Community Life Chairperson, Sub-committee chairperson

Human Trafficking

In the Fall 2019 issue of the Canadian League publication, Dorothy Johansen, Life Member and Sub-Committee Chairperson of Community Life, wrote a very comprehensive article on Human Trafficking. The article focused on the resource booklet *Pastoral Orientation*, as well as Public Canada's discussion paper *The Way Forward to End Human Trafficking*. It contains a great deal of information, clarification of legal terminology and lists recommended actions for all members. I would recommend that you take the opportunity to read through it, if you haven't already had a chance to do so.

When we think of Human Trafficking, we usually think in terms of sexual exploitation of young girls and women. However, there is also the issue of Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation or as it is often referred to as modern-day slavery. For this directive, I'd like to focus on this part of Human Trafficking. Existing numbers globally only provide a hint of the scope of where we stand on Labour Trafficking. In Canada, there is no centralized database to collect reports so official numbers are difficult to provide. Experts agree that additional funding for better research, to collect this information, is needed.

The following information has been taken in part from a document produced by The Canadian Counsel for Refugees.

Trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation takes place when some means are used as a way of controlling someone in order to cause them to believe that they have no choice but to carry out a specific work or service. The following are some ways by which this exploitation can occur.

- A person is deceived through attractive promises (such as a good job or educational or other opportunities) only to find that the promises are false or that conditions (such as work and pay) are much worse than advertised;
 - A person is isolated in order to control her/his freedom of movement and ability to contact other people, including family and other members of society, and is constantly monitored;
 - A person is intimidated by threats of being underpaid, not being paid at all, or having penalties applied; by threats of physical violence, denunciation to authorities and deportation; through harassment, controlling the person to ensure that they comply;
- They have her/his passport, identity documents and work permit taken from them;

- A person has her/his specific vulnerabilities taken advantage of, including a person's lack of viable economic or employment options, a situation of indebtedness, language barriers, or a person's separation from loved ones and from her/his support networks.
- A person is forced to participate in illegal activities such as fraud or stealing, in order to criminalize them as another means of control.

Exploitation takes place, whereby a person is:

- Underpaid, not paid at all, or whose wages are deducted unjustifiably (such as for wildly overpriced housing);
- Forced to work unpaid overtime;
- Charged large, fraudulent recruitment fees;
- Manipulated into a situation of debt through a loan, wage advance or fraudulent fees charged, to keep the person under control and in a situation of bonded labour.

In Canada, trafficking for the purpose of labour, has predominantly affected migrant workers. Those most affected by abuse and exploitation, often come with valid work permits under the "low-skilled" streams of the Temporary Foreign Workers Program (TFWP). The temporary foreign workers may be employed in agricultural positions on farms, live-in caregivers, in restaurants, hotels or other hospitality services, in construction or in manufacturing, as well as in domestic work.

Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) may encounter situations where they are vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. Although some enforcement and monitoring measures have been added to the TFWP, the program continues to rely overwhelmingly on a complaints system, that migrant workers are unlikely to use as this can still lead to deportation.

Labour exploitation and human trafficking occurs daily. The circumstances and experiences surrounding this issue is complex. Therefore it is critical that we continue to educate ourselves, our families and our communities, to be aware of those that may be at risk.

Saint Martin de Porres - Patron Saint for Social Justice - Feast Day Nov 3rd

Saint Martin de Porres was born Dec 9th, 1579 in Lima Peru. He is known as the saint of social justice. He is also known as 'Martin of Charity', 'the Charitable' and 'Saint Martin of the Broom', as he willingly and joyfully embraced any chore no matter how menial. He was born of mixed race, his father was a Spanish explorer and his mother was a local Indian woman. Early in his childhood, he experienced prejudice firsthand.

Saint Martin was instrumental in founding an orphanage for the poor children of Lima, started an animal hospital and went out of his way to seek out those who others forgot about. No one was turned away and he accepted all as they were, placing their needs above his own.

He was a close friend of Saint Rose of Lima and together they raised the poor and marginalized of Lima. They enacted significant social reform, including wages, healthcare and education. By the time of his death, November 3rd, 1639, Saint Martin was known to the entire city of Lima and especially to the poor and struggling, who thought of him as a saint while living. However, it wasn't until May 6th, 1962 that Saint Martin was canonized by Pope John XXIII in Rome.



Saint Martin de Porres

To you Saint Martin de Porres,

We prayerfully lift up our hearts, filled with serene confidence and devotion. Mindful of your unbounded and helpful charity to all levels of society and also of your meekness and humility of heart, we offer our petitions to you. Pour out upon our families the precious gifts of your solicitous and generous intercession; show to the people of every race and every color the paths of unity and of justice; implore from our Father in heaven the coming of his kingdom, so that through mutual benevolence in God men may increase the fruits of grace and merit the rewards of eternal life.

Amen.

C.A.R.E Connection Project Update.

I have had a lot of very positive feedback regarding this project. Members have shared some of the things they are currently doing in their parishes. Don't forget to share your council's wonderful stories of how you reach out to the most vulnerable in your communities.

The C.A.R.E. Connection Project.

C - Communicate - Reach out to someone. It starts with a simple *Hello*

A - Act - Do something! Don't just think about doing it or don't wait. Just do it!

R - Respect - Respect people's situation. Don't judge. Be aware of their boundaries.

E - Engage - You just need to take that first step to make a world of difference to someone.

Has anyone considered establishing a sub-committee under Community Life to focus on the issue of loneliness? Does anyone already have a Champion for Loneliness in place? I look forward to hearing all about the creative ways you are dealing with this project. Let us all work together to make a truly connected society again!

With Prayers and Blessings,

Mary Capobianco