



Ontario Provincial Council The Catholic Women's League of Canada Resolutions Standing Committee



Care for our Common Home

Directive #4

Pages: 1
Attachments: 2

April 29, 2020

To: Diocesan Resolutions Chairpersons
From: Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Provincial Council Resolutions Chair
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Ontario Provincial Council Executive, National Resolutions Committee Chairperson

The pandemic reminds us there are no differences or borders between those who suffer. We are all frail, all equal, all precious. May we be profoundly shaken: Now is the time to eliminate inequalities and heal the injustice undermining the health of the entire human family!

Pope Francis

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light that changes are required in the future in order to keep our seniors in long-term care homes safe. In my May Online submission, I asked members from across the province to write to Merilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care and Christine Elliott, Minister of Health as well as their critics asking for change. Included in my submission were the names, addresses of both ministers as well as the critics. I also asked that members to inform their Diocesan Resolution Chairs that they have written a letter. I would like to keep track of all the letters sent on behalf of these vulnerable people, who need us to speak up for them. Dr. Moira McQueen, Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute states:

“Something has to change! When it does, Catholic social teaching can help to point the way: we should focus on the *individual dignity* of our elderly loved ones AND *the common good* of all the elderly in our society; focus on *subsidiarity*, such as more federal /provincial/ charitable support for long term care and nursing homes AND *solidarity* through a better response from younger generations towards the support of their own elderly relatives and in recognition of what is owed to the more poorly paid health care workers in this sector.”

Please encourage your members to write and send to me how many from your Diocese have written. Individual letters are the best way to communicate with our MPPs. I have attached my May submission for your reference.

Cathy Bouchard, National Resolutions Chair has asked for feedback regarding the questions in the annual report. I have attached a copy to this directive to help you give me your feedback. I will then forward all the input on behalf of all the dioceses in Ontario. I thank you all in advance for your assistance.

Blessings and hugs,

Wilma