



Timmins Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada 72nd Annual Provincial Convention 2019 Kingston

"Habitat" is the environmental term chosen for Timmins diocese. We understand 'habitat' to mean the place where a population (e.g., human, animal, plant, or microorganism) lives, and its surroundings, both living and nonliving.

Wikipedia states: *"The protection of habitats is a necessary step in the maintenance of biodiversity because if habitat destruction occurs, the animals and plants reliant on that habitat suffer."*

Many countries have enacted legislation to protect their wildlife" by setting up "national parks, forest reserves and wildlife reserves", or by restricting "the activities of humans with the objective of benefiting wildlife. International treaties may be necessary for objectives such as the setting up of marine reserves.

However, the protection of habitats needs to take into account the needs of the local residents for food, fuel and other resources. Even where legislation protects the environment, a lack of enforcement often prevents effective protection."

Taking all this into account, there are no easy answers for a solution because there are needs on both sides of the coin. This does not leave us off scot free; we still have to do something and as more and more information comes our way, we see that we actually have a lot to do so that our habitat, this planet, continues to sustain life and future generations.

This came forth strongly at our diocesan convention as we listened to a video of Greta Thunberg, a 16 year old girl from Sweden who gave a powerful talk about climate change and the fact that nobody is talking about it. As Greta states "the time to act is right NOW" – we are talking and acting! One example is making and using cloth bags for produce in place of plastic.

Individual councils are encouraging members to conserve water using the suggestions given by provincial council. Diocesan council held an environmental water poster contest and the winning class received a certificate and prize. These posters will be used at next year's convention. Another class also received a certificate and prize given by the local CWL council.

"Project Garbage" was introduced at the post-convention meeting. Councils are being asked to participate in garbage 'clean-up' in their communities where

members (and family/friends) clean up the churchyard and surrounding land OR around their own homes or parks, etc. Members can be asked to think of and discuss ways of producing 'less' garbage. Presidents were encouraged to come up with other ways to 'care for our common home' and to report back at the Executive meeting in October.

Our annual Spiritual Retreat in September will include a talk on "Care for Our Common Home" as we continue to educate ourselves on how to make the changes required to combat climate change.

The councils are continuing to collect items for the homeless and a large amount came to the convention for distribution to shelters and to Canadian Food for Children. The peanut butter, crackers and socks project was a success as members and parishioners alike brought in items and these were distributed locally.

This ends my report,

Annette Kelly

Timmins Diocesan President