



Ontario Provincial Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Administrative Assistant
Care for Our Common Home



Directive #5

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May 10, 2019

To: Diocesan Corresponding Secretaries,
Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers,
Spiritual Advisor, Archbishop B.M. O'Brien, and National Secretary Treasurer
From: Stephanie Spinelli, Administrative Assistant
Ontario Provincial Council

"As stewards of God's creation, we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family. When we destroy our forests, ravage our soil and pollute our seas, we betray that noble calling." Pope Francis

Greetings everyone,

The national theme, *Care for Our Common Home*, calls us to reflect on how we, as individuals, can contribute to the beautification and not to the decimation of our precious planet. Our national president has asked that we focus in particular on the issue of water...its use and misuse.

A 2015 U.N. report predicted that the world is on track to face a 40% shortage of fresh water in the next 15 years. Logic tells us that if current usage habits do not change, the world will have only 60% of the water it needs in 2030.

A recent episode of the CBC documentary, *The Passionate Eye*, www.cbc.ca/passionateeye/episodes/fashion-dirty-secrets enlightened me as to the devastating effect the fashion industry has on the environment. I was stunned to learn that next to coal and oil, **fashion is the second worst polluter**. Driven by marketing techniques and consumers' insatiable appetite for cheap clothing, "the garment industry produces over 100 billion new garments from new fibres globally every single year and the planet cannot sustain it. The production of cotton, with a reputation for being natural, clean and eco-friendly is responsible for using more water than any other fibre." Did you know that it takes more than 20,000 litres (5,283 gal.) of water to produce one kilogram (2.2 lbs.) of cotton which equals one t-shirt and one pair of jeans? Think about the number of cotton t-shirts and pairs jeans in our closets. This investigation is an eye opener and I challenge you to view it and think about what you can do to help remedy the problem.

Here are some suggestions on how to use your power as a consumer to make small changes:

- 1) Buy classic "investment" pieces (certified organic) that will last for years.
- 2) Buy less. Ask yourself "Is there already something similar in my closet?"
- 3) Wear the same item several ways with a change of simple accessories.
- 4) Swap clothes with friends.
- 5) Rent that outfit for a one-time special occasion.
- 6) Buy used at vintage clothing boutiques and on-line stores.
- 7) Glean your closet of unworn items and donate to a local charity/thrift store.
- 8) Purchase sustainably produced clothing from eco-friendly shops and suppliers making sure to check for organic certification. (OCS –Organic Cotton Standards or GOTS-Globe Organic Textile Standards)
- 9) Donate clothing to companies that produce clothing from recycled fabrics.
- 10) Be informed...Educate yourself and others about the issue. There is a plethora of information available on-line. Some suggested sites are:
www.unwater.org/world-water-development-report-2019-leaving-no-one-behind/
www.triplepundit.com/story/2016/quenching-cottons-thirst-reducing-use-water-cotton-lifecycle/57196
www.aboutorganiccotton.org/fieldtoffashion

You Tube videos: Five Fantastic Facts about Organic Cotton- Natracare
Pros and Cons of Common Fabrics
Organic Cotton

Please keep me abreast of any action taken in parish councils that will contribute to "making the earth a beautiful garden for the human family."

PROCEDURE for UPDATING NEW EXECUTIVE LISTS FOLLOWING ELECTIONS

Spring is all about conventions and a busy time of the year for the League as we witness the fruits of our year-long planning and celebrate the good works of so many, this year under the theme of *Care for Our Common Home* and *Homelessness*. Thirteen diocesan conventions are scheduled between April 26th and May 26th with half already past. By the end of May nine councils will have welcomed a new slate of officers. I thought this a good time to look at the procedure that follows an election.

We want to hear about your election results in order to update our contact lists and welcome our new sisters to the fold. Approximately 130 new members' contact details must be inserted into the *Provincial Executive Committee Contact Lists*. In

the best interest of time for everyone, the following is the procedure recommended for sharing your good news:

- As soon as possible following the election, the *Diocesan Executive List for 2019-21* is prepared by the corresponding secretary, recording secretary or by the diocesan president.
- The name, mailing address, phone number/s and email address of each officer, standing committee chair and spiritual advisor is to be listed. You may also include that of your appointed life member liaison and the archbishop/bishop of the diocese.
- The list is forwarded to the National Office of The Catholic Women's League of Canada to the attention of Office Assistant, Ingrid Taylor for their records.
- A duplicate must also be sent to Provincial President, Anne Madden with a copy to the Administrative Assistant, for provincial records.
- Upon receipt of the new diocesan information, provincial lists are updated and forwarded to members of the OPC executive that includes the spiritual advisor, officers, appointees and diocesan presidents.
- Provincial officers are then responsible for forwarding their committee lists to their counterparts at the diocesan level.

During the five or six weeks of transition we ask that any League correspondence received by an outgoing officer kindly be forwarded to the incoming president or executive officer.

I have attached a *Diocesan Executive List Form* in WORD format for submission of your information. My contact details are inserted as an example. Please consider it a template and amend as required.

Thank you in advance for your patience as this information is received and processed.

May we continue to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and guided by Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Stephanie

Wisdom to Care for the Earth

Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it.

Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures.

Help us to become instruments of a new creation,

Founded on the covenant of your love.

The Cry of the Earth