



**Ontario Provincial Council**  
**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Education and Health Standing Committee Chair**  
*Go Make a Difference*

Directive: No. 05  
Pages: 2

March 17, 2023  
Attachments: N/A

To: Diocesan and Parish Standing Committee Chairs for Education and Health, Service and Social Justice  
Cc: Linda Squarzolo, Ontario Provincial President, Diocesan Presidents, Ontario Provincial Officers, OPC Education and Health Sub-Committee National Education and Health Chair  
From: Hilarion Mitchell, Ontario Provincial Education and Health Standing Committee Chair

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It is spring and the season of rebirth! Easter, longer days, warmer weather, blooming flowers, birds chirping, bees pollinating, greening foliage and grass with gardening and other outdoor activities more prominent as we reconnect with Mother Nature and each other.

*Human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with **God**, with our **neighbour** and the with the **earth** itself. Laudato Si'. 66*

The environment is one of the responsibilities of the Education and Health and the Social Justice committees. This directive will focus on the environment through some *Care for Our Common Home* initiatives for 2023. The blue hyperlink will provide more details from the original sources.

[World Water:](#) Wed. March 22<sup>nd</sup>

It is a UN observance day, with the aim to highlight the importance of [freshwater](#). The theme of World Water Day 2023 is *Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible*. The theme highlights the importance of groundwater to our environment. World Water Day is to support the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. See [The Lazy Person's Guide to Saving Water](#).

[Earth Hour:](#) Sat. March 25<sup>th</sup> [8:30 pm. - 9:30 pm]

Earth Hour encourages individuals, communities and businesses to turn off all non-essential lights and electrics for an hour. The first event started in Sydney in Australia in 2007. The goal is to help raise awareness around the globe of our energy use, consumption, impact and long-lasting effects on the environment. This draws attention to the issues of climate change and [global warming](#).

[Earth Day:](#) April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Earth Day seeks to highlight and promote efforts dedicated to the protection of the environment. "Invest in Our Planet." As we enter the 21st century, we face many environmental crises including global warming, deforestation, endangered wildlife,

shortages of potable water, and widespread pollution. These crises negatively affect our planet's resources, and they pose serious risk to our long-term lifestyles and health.

The following 2023 environmental observances were taken from the [Random Acts of Green](#) with themes connected between people, creatures and planet.

May

[No Mow May Challenge Month](#), [International Compost Awareness Week](#) (first week), [Endangered Species Day](#) (May 17), [World Bee Day](#) (May 20), [World Biodiversity Day](#) (May 22)

June

[World Environment Day](#) (June 5), [World Oceans Day](#) (June), [World Rainforest Day](#) (June 22)

September

[World Environmental Health Day](#) (Sept. 26), [International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste](#) (Sept. 26), [The Season of Creation](#) (Sept; 1 – Oct. 4, Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. The theme this year is '*Let Justice and Peace Flow.*')

October

[Circular Economy Month \(Canada\)](#), [Third Week of October: Waste Reduction Week in Canada](#), [World Food Day](#) (Oct. 16), [International Day of Climate Action](#) (Oct. 24)

League Environmental Resolutions and Resources

- [2018.02](#) Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as “Flushable”
- [2015.02](#) Ban Microbeads in Personal Care Products
- [2015.03](#) Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides
- [ON.18.01](#) Develop national standards for levels of pharmaceuticals in Canada's drinking water
- [ON.11.01](#) Safe Potable Water for First Nations Communities
- [Care for God's Creation Resources](#) (625), [Our Common Home: A Crash Course PowerPoint, attachment](#) (625a), [Our Common Home: Speaker's notes](#) (625b)

Education and Health *Go Make a Difference* Project

The [Horizons of Hope Toolkit](#) was developed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as a toolkit to empower and educate those interested in learning about approaches to compassionate palliative and end of life care. It will assist those facing a terminal illness and their caregivers to learn more about palliative care from theological, ethical and medical perspectives. To coincide with National Hospice Palliative Care Week (May 7 – 13), Dr. Moira McQueen and Shirley Christo, Life Member, MHSc, MEd, Parish Nurse will provide an overview of the Horizons of Hope Toolkit.

- Date: Mon. May 8, 2023 [Virtual]
- Time: 7:00 – 8:30/9:00 pm
- Registration: Details will be provided in April.

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**Education and Health Standing Committee:** Catholic Education-Literacy and Continuing Education-Scholarships and Bursaries-Wellness and Sickness/Disease-Environment-Bioethics