



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

Directive: No. 12

February 25, 2024

Attachment (2)

Pages: 2

- [World Water Day Factsheet](#) - [The Season of Creation 2024](#)

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, Marlin Taylor, Life Member (OPC Education and Health Sub-Committee), National Education and Health Chair
From: Hilarion Mitchell, Ontario Provincial Education and Health Standing Committee Chair

Despite the warmer than usual 2023-2024 winter season, it is nice to be welcoming spring in the next few weeks, day light savings time with longer days ahead and Easter. New life is beginning so hence an opportune time to focus on environmental issues and connect us with God's creation.

"... for now, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land. Song of Songs 2:11-12

Social justice issues on the environment connect all executive officers and standing committee positions. With the now slim down League structure, councils may want to select one or two environmental projects that all positions can work as their focus for the year. There are many environmental issues with a few listed below with the [hyperlinks](#) to the websites for more details.



[Laudato Si' Movement](#) is a spirit-led movement that brings Catholics together to accomplish their mission, in collaboration with all people of good will. The movement includes a broad range of Catholic organizations and grassroots members from all over the world. They walk together in synodality and communion with the universal Church on a journey of ecological conversion. [Resources](#) Sign up for their free newsletter to receive life-changing resources, including daily tips for sustainable living, on a weekly basis.

[World Water Day](#) (Fri. March 22): Raises awareness and inspires action to tackle the water and sanitation crisis. The 2024 theme is 'Water for Peace'. When we cooperate on water, we create a positive ripple effect – fostering harmony, generating prosperity, and building resilience to shared challenges.

- 2.2 billion still live without safely managed drinking water, including 115 million people who drink surface water. ([WHO/UNICEF, 2023](#))



Here I am Lord, send me, Isaiah 6:8

- Water-related disasters have dominated the list of disasters over the past 50 years and account for 70 per cent of all deaths related to natural disasters ([World Bank, 2022](#)).
- Access to drinking water is a human right. [World Water Day Factsheet](#)

[Earth Hour 2024](#) (Sat, Mar 23): It is observed between 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm to bring awareness on nature loss and the climate crisis and serves as a reminder that small individual actions, when taken collectively, can have a significant impact on the environment.

[Earth Day](#) (Mon April 22)

[World Bee Day](#) (May 20) / [Why Bee Matters](#)

[Canadian Environment Week](#). (June 3- 9)

[World Environment Day](#) (June 5)

[International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste](#) (Sept. 29)

[World Environmental Health Day](#) (Sept. 26)

[Season of Creation 2024](#) (Sept. 1 – Oct. 4). The theme is, *To hope and act with Creation*. The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home. The “Celebration” begins 1 September, the Feast of Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

League Social Justice (Environmental) Resolutions

- 2023.01 [Combating Textile Waste in Canada](#)
- 2022.01 [Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste](#)
- 2018.02 [Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as “Flushable”](#)
- [ON.11.01](#) Safe Potable Water for First Nations Communities

League Resources

- [Care for God’s Creation Resources](#) (625), [Our Common Home: A Crash Course PowerPoint, attachment](#) (625a), [Our Common Home: Speaker’s notes](#) (625b)



Nutrition and Mental Health

With March being Nutrition Month in Canada, and the League national theme, *Here I am Lord, send me*, focus on mental health, it is timely to address nutrition and mental health. Food is a necessity of life as it provides the nutrients (vitamins and minerals) for our survival. The energy from food is needed for our body to grow, repair, and maintain body tissues and to regulate nutrients. Food is needed in the right quantity and variety as too much or too little affect our quality of life.

- See the March 2024, OPC Online newsletter for an expanded version of this article.

Here I am Lord, send me! Let us spring into action as we focus on our role in taking small but important steps for our environment and health. Have a blessed Lent and Easter.