

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

Hilarion Mitchell



The liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas prepare us for the coming of Christ. We are filled with hope, peace, joy, and love making us more connected to others. It is a time to celebrate with our League sisters, spiritual advisors, family and friends.

## **Charity and the Spirit of Giving**

We are also keenly aware that affordability issues continue to dominate the news and are within our own homes, families, parishes, community and beyond. Housing, food, health care, transportation costs and more are experienced by many around us. During these festive times, charity and advocacy go hand in hand with Social Justice, and are reminders to help those less fortunate.

***"Let charity be reborn," and "may we not let this Christmas pass without doing something good" so that a little hope can be "born anew in those who feel hopeless." Pope Francis***

Mindful that the spirit of giving embodies the true meaning of Christmas, brings joy and fulfillment. We feel blessed when we give of our time and provide financial donations. Councils and members looking for ways to help others can support the CWL national voluntary funds below:

- [Coady Institute](#)
- [Development and Peace – Caritas Canada](#)
- [Catholic Missions In Canada](#)
- [Catholic Near East Welfare Association](#)

The [Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary Fund](#) is administered through the Ontario Provincial Council. Your diocese may have its own voluntary fund that you can also support. In addition, donate and volunteer to organizations such as Society of St. Vincent de Paul, shelters and food banks, give handmade gifts and homemade baking, make hygiene kits, etc.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

Hilarion Mitchell

## Reducing Environmental Footprint During the Holidays

This season, though enjoyable, comes with excess waste from boxes, gift wrappings, food and more. [Zero Waste Canada](#) found: READ MORE...

- Canadians generate up to 25% more waste in the holiday season.
- Giftwrapping and shopping bags generate 545,000 tonnes of waste annually.
- Within 6 months, only 1% of everything the average person buys are still in use, the other 99% has been discarded.

The tips below will help to create memories, minimize waste and lessen our environmental footprint.

- BYOD (bring your own dishes) as in plates, cutlery, cups and glasses in addition to their food contribution from home for their Christmas dinner
- Green Gift Giving (re-gifting, sustainable resources and recycled materials)
- Reuse wrapping paper, festive fabrics or kraft paper bags with compostable decorations.
- Spend less, buy second hand, repurpose and regift items no longer needed.
- Refresh and accessorize your current wardrobe instead of purchasing new.
- Donate clothing no longer needed to clothing drives, boxes, home collections.
- Waste less water, use LED instead of incandescent lights.
- Use reusable instead of disposables (no single-use plastic packaging)



Care for our

Common Home

[Tips for a Sustainable Holiday Sustainable Gift Giving.](#)