

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Hilarion Mitchell

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

In addition to finding hope in God's grace, we are also called to discover hope in the signs of the times that the Lord gives us.

Pope Francis, 'Spes non confundit' Section 7.



March is filled with many signs of hope with the longer daylight, spring blossoms, birds chirping, pollinating bees, greening foliage and grass as we reconnect with Mother Nature and each other. It is also Lent, a season of hope and time of spiritual renewal in preparation for the resurrection of Jesus at Easter.



March 17th marks the 5th anniversary that the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in Ontario. During that period of uncertainty, being hopeful allowed many to be resilient through the various phases, lockdowns, vaccine rollouts, etc. The pandemic seems like another lifetime ago. On this anniversary, hope is still needed as the pandemic has ongoing impact on social justice issues by exposing inequalities affecting individuals as seen in the Social Determinants of Health (SDH). These are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes and are more important than health care or lifestyle choices in influencing health (WHO).

The Social Determinants of Health (SDH) as taken from Health Canada.

- Social Determinants of Health (SDH)

Determinants of health are the broad range of personal, social, economic and environmental factors that determine individual and population health. The main determinants of health include:

1. Income and social status
2. Employment and working conditions
3. Education and literacy
4. Childhood experiences
5. Physical environments
6. Social supports and coping skills
7. Healthy behaviours
8. Access to health services
9. Biology and genetic endowment
10. Gender
11. Culture
12. Race / Racism



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Environmental Days

One of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching is the Care for God's Creation, Stewardship of Creation and responsibility for social justice.

- March 5 to April 17: During Lent, rethink harmful ways of living with creation and commit to healing our relationships with our Creator and each other (Laudato Si' Movement).
- March 22: World Water Day
- March 22: Earth Hour "Biggest Hour for Earth" 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm

League Position Papers

2023 Waste Management: Position Statement: The Catholic Women's League of Canada acknowledges that waste management is a societal issue and that better waste management practices are essential to ensure cleaner air, cleaner water, more sustainable use of natural resources and the recovery and reuse of many waste materials.

2023 Water: Position Statement: The Catholic Women's League of Canada recognizes the interdependence of all members of the human family and the reliance on water for life. Drinking water, including its quality, distribution, privatization and conservation, is significant. The League affirms the urgency to use and protect water resources in a sustainable and controlled way for future generations.



OPC Social Justice Rosary. Betsy Currier, Life Member, has prepared and will be leading the Social Justice Rosary with the Diocesan Social Justice chairs in recognition of the Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope – on Tuesday March 11 at 7:00 pm. (See poster on next page with details)

The Ontario Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Invites You to walk with us on a 'Virtual' Pilgrimage to Rome

Not going to Rome for the Year of Jubilee?

Mark your calendar for four evenings of spiritual reflections,

March 10 to 13, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Eastern Time (US and Canada)

You can attend one or all evenings

Each evening will be special and part of the Virtual Pilgrimage

Monday, March 10, 2025, is hosted by the OPC Faith Chair

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, is hosted by the OPC Social Justice Chair

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, is hosted by the OPC Service Chair

Thursday, March 13, 2025, is hosted by our Provincial President

PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS MEETING:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/giePIOYIQOKSKakMHmudlg>

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email
containing information about joining the meeting**