

service

Sue Lubowitz

The Joy of New Life

Evangelium Vitae translated into English is The Gospel of Life. This document is the papal encyclical written by Pope St. John Paul II. March 25 of this year marked 30 years since *Evangelium Vitae* (EV) was published on the Feast of the Annunciation. In this document he wrote that the Gospel of Life is at the heart of Jesus' saving message to the world. In becoming human and dwelling among us, Christ reveals the profound dignity of every human person. This God given dignity does not change with our stage of life, our abilities, our level of independence or any other varying circumstance. The human person is a "manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory." (EV34). It is our mission to reflect this truth in how we act and how we treat one another.

One way we reflect the Gospel of Life as League members is through our Ministry of Service. This April marks the 6th annual Global Volunteer Month. The month long celebration recognizes the profound impact each of us can make through volunteering. It celebrates the power of community, service and the ripple effect collective action creates in our communities and around the world.

Many countries, including Canada, also have National Volunteer Week during this time. In Canada, National Volunteer Week is led by Volunteer Canada. This year it is the week of April 27 to May 3. The theme for 2025 is "Volunteers Make Waves".

For more information visit: <https://volunteer.ca/national-volunteer-week/>



**NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
WEEK 2025**
VOLUNTEERS MAKE WAVES

APRIL 27 - MAY 3

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According to the Statistics Canada's Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating (SGVP) 2018 report over 24 million Canadians gave approximately 5 billion hours to their formal and informal volunteer activities – equivalent to over 2.5 million full-time year-round jobs. Also that same year, \$11.9 billion was donated to charitable or non-profit organizations, with an average annual amount per donor of \$567.

(www.statcan.gc.ca/SGVP)

Recent trends suggest a decline in volunteerism. Statistics Canada's conducted another SGVP from September 15, 2023 to March 2024. The report compilation is not available at the moment however councils are encouraged to communicate with government officials at all levels and inform them of the work the League performs and the impact on the community. Include a human-interest angle. Use quotes from volunteers or someone who has been affected by the work your members do in service.

For more tips visit the Volunteer Canada site. The information you provide elected officials will be the information they need to make good decisions that affect volunteers. National Volunteer Month is also an opportunity to promote the benefits of volunteering to women in your parish and community if and when they become a League member.

The following League resources that may also be helpful:

- #634 Interrogational Activity Program
- #635 Actively Engaging New Members and Homebound Members
- #831 Advocacy Workshop

*May the risen Christ bring you and your family
endless joy, abundant blessings, and renewed hope.*

