



Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Centred on Faith and Justice

Communique No. 2

Date: January 20, 2012

To: Christian Family Life Chairpersons or Parish Presidents
Provincial Executive and Life Members
National Christian Family Life Chairperson – Peggy Roche

From: Ellen Merrigan, Provincial Chairperson – Christian Family Life

Greetings: Happy New Year to you and your families. I hope you were blessed with a happy and peaceful Christmas. My wish for 2012 is one of peace and happiness for all.

Poverty and Justice:

Poverty levels are high in NL and Labrador and all over Canada. It is a complex and multi-faceted issue and the reduction and eventual elimination of poverty lies with each and everyone of us; government, faith communities, community groups, businesses, charities, etc. I have recently purchased the book, Living Justice: A Gospel Response to Poverty, that explores material, emotional, community and spiritual poverty. The materials in the book are intended to invite prayerful contemplation and action in order to reduce the burden of poverty and ultimately to see that poverty is eliminated. I ask all my sisters in the League to continue to pray for the elimination of poverty, to assist in community and church activities to combat poverty and to sign on to the movement for the reduction and eventual elimination of poverty in Canada at www.dignityforall.ca.

Single-Parent Family

Councils need to encourage and help single parents and their children on their life and spiritual journey. Try to promote programs that enrich and support aspects of home and family.

Seniors

Seniors in our province are faced with many problems; housing, home care, health issues and Alzheimer's disease to name a few. There is a need for more facilities and more attention paid to these issues. As councils we need to lobby government to ensure more is done to help our seniors. Involve seniors in the various ministries of the parish council and make them feel needed once again as they have the gift of knowledge. Be proactive and give them a call, talk with them about happy events and most of all, listen to what they have

to say. Listening and being there for someone is very comforting to those who feel lost and alone.

Youth

One topic to focus on this coming year is youth. The problems faced from peer pressure, being bullied, broken families, drug addiction, self-injury and suicide cannot be faced alone. Many young people find themselves in a situation where they seem lost and unreachable. Some have to be hospitalized because of their addiction or may be left with a mental disability for the rest of their lives. Families find it difficult to stay focussed and to deal with these problems. Sometimes the burden is too hard to bear and the family falls apart. How to help? We must respect and assist those who are not yet true to themselves. How to do that? Encourage members to play a positive role by volunteering with a youth crisis program in the community or by inviting youth counsellors to facilitate a presentation on problems facing youth today. Request brochures and booklets from various organizations and enclose it in the church bulletin. Encourage families never to give up.

Vocations

Vocations are often thought of only as a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. There are many other groups of people who have a vocation or calling as well. When praying for vocations to the priesthood please remember to include a prayer for the lay people of the parishes.

Euthanasia

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and the Rasouli family have unanimously won the precedent setting Rasouli decision which states in part that doctors are required to obtain consent before they can withdraw life-sustaining treatment. This is a victory for the individuals in Canada.

Each and everyone of us should have living wills in place just in case there is a medical situation where loved ones are faced with making a decision for us to “pull the plug” and probably be faced with guilt the rest of their lives and turmoil with siblings and relatives. Make clear your wishes about end of life situations through a living will. Forms are free.

Resolutions

Resolution 2011.01 Prohibition of Practices re Human Reproductive Material was adopted at the annual national convention. The league urges the federal government to prohibit the practices of alteration, manipulation and treatment of human reproductive material that would result in the destruction of human embryos. We need to write the federal government and our local members of parliament to make our voices heard.

Centre for Life

Recently our president Lidwina visited the new Centre for Life located at 195 Freshwater Road, St. John's. It is ideally positioned in the heart of St. John's, near schools and universities. It is a vibrant, warm and inviting space for women and men, young and elderly. The centre is in great need of volunteers to work in their local parish and community. If any league member can assist the centre please contact Linda Holden at the centre. Another concern of the centre is membership. If any council or individual can take out a membership it would be greatly appreciated. Having a membership gives the holder a vote at the annual general meeting.

Some ways to support the centre:

- 1. Direct contributions**
- 2. Donations of new baby items.**
- 3. Baby Bottle Project --- Fill a dollar shop baby bottle with loose coin.**
- 4. Support the annual walk and family Fun Day on June 16. (Details to follow)**
- 5. Take part in the Good Friday Vigil**

Did you know that 1012 abortions happened in 2011? This alone tells us that we need to assist the centre in any way we can.

The centre is in the process of getting a new web site up and running, CentreforLife.ca.

Continue the good work for God and Canada and may you be blessed by our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel.