



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

***Centred on Faith and Justice***

Communique No. 2

Date: January 26, 2012

To: Chairperson of Community Life Committee/Parish President/  
Provincial President/Provincial Executive/Life Members (for Information)  
Barbara Dowding, National Community Life Chairperson

From: Madelyn Corbett, Provincial Community Life Chairperson

Happy New Year to all of you; I trust you had a blessed and Merry Christmas with your family and friends.

My husband, Phil, and I are presently visiting my daughter and family in Crysler, Ontario (a half hour from Ottawa) and will be here until March. Lots of snow and cold temperatures, but, in the evening we sit by the “cozy” fireplace and have “well deserved” quality time.

I recently read an article in the Ottawa Citizen written by Elizabeth Payne entitled “Who will make up the mantle of the Church?” She said, “ Volunteering is a story being played out across the country, especially in smaller provinces and communities with older populations. Church ladies are, literally, a dying breed. Volunteers like these ladies are leaving a gap that is underappreciated and will be difficult to fill”. So, you see it's not only our province that has this problem, what can we, who are very vibrant in our province do, as community leaders, how can we approach others? Invite people to our meetings, ask suggestions in our bulletins, provide babysitters for younger members to come to a meeting. In this new year let us look at our own “little parish community” and see what we have and what we lack.

Barbara Dowding is our National Community Life Chairperson and she said community life is like a massive buffet filled with variety and selections. Here are some of the highlights from her recent Communique:

Immigration issues are ongoing and complex. In a recently published report by the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights, The Sexual Exploitation of Children in Canada, the Need for National action, poverty, homelessness, family violence and

racism are listed as contributing and compounding factors around the sexual exploitation of children.

Development & Peace - The 1% Program can only do as well as donations allow.

-The Afghan Women's Resource Centre – works courageously in Afghan society by providing literacy training and start up loans.

-The National Federation of Bolivian Domestic Workers – educates young women about laws and rights in the workplaces to ensure their safety and preserve the dignity of domestic workers.

-Development & Exchange Centre – assists women in poverty. More than 60% of the population in the oil rich country of Nigeria live in poverty. The Centre offers literacy courses and educational opportunities.

President Lidwina reminded us “Annual Reports” are due to the Provincial Executive on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Presidents, if you don't have a Community Life Chairperson, please try to encourage a member/members to consider this. What a wonderful way to learn more about the League and gain great personal satisfaction! Members that find it difficult to attend meetings, but, are avid readers might love to help.

Keeping with our theme, Centered On Faith and Justice, let us continue to voice our opinion by being familiar with the daily needs of our community and province. The Search and Rescue conflict is still ongoing between NF & LAB and the Federal Government. Let's continue to keep abreast of this by following the news. Just last night on NTV News they spoke of the closure of the Marine Rescue Sub-Centre in St. John's, another problem with our government; and the list goes on. Encourage one another by keeping up with current events and remember to write your MP on important issues.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you in 2012 as you work for God and Canada.

Sincerely,

Madelyn Corbett  
Community Life Chairperson

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