



London Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



To: All Parish Presidents, Community Life Chairpersons

CC: London Diocesan Council

From: Helga Steurmer, Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson

Date: January 2017

Directive # 4

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

In 1967, **Development and Peace** was founded by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. This year we are celebrating 50 years of Solidarity for Justice and Peace. The Catholic Women's League has been part of this movement throughout their history. Please work with your Parish to promote Development and Peace – Caritas Canada's 2017 Share Lent campaign. Share Lent runs for seven consecutive weeks beginning on February 26th. Free materials can be ordered (or downloaded) and distributed throughout the campaign. This year, the campaign is entitled “*Women at the Heart of Change*”. The Solidarity Calendar can be obtained at your parish or on line to assist you in planning events for this year's journey. A Stations of the Cross script is also available online. Share Lent collection Sunday is April 2nd. For more information go to the Development and Peace website: www.devp.org

Euthanasia: In this last year we have been asked to change our ways of expressing our opposition to medical killing. Instead, **support a culture of caring**. Encourage people to become active caregivers with their communities. Address each situation with humility and understanding for the person in constant pain. It is a difficult time when excruciating pain dominates your life. These are the times we need to be present. To offer our caring, our support, our understanding, and our prayers. When someone is present, reaching out with a humble caring heart, these are the times when we become a link to the present and can bring a light for the future. In Matthew 5 we are told: “*You are the light of the world*”.

North of 60 Project: Once again I must tell you I was overwhelmed at the tremendous response for our call to assist our northern communities with gifts of warmth. The many boxes were delivered to the Saint Vincent de Paul office in London where the Ontario Council of SVDP ensured these goods were sent north. Since our 2 pallets of boxes were delivered, I have received another 7 boxes of items. If you have items you wish to donate going forward, please send them to your local SVDP store marked for North of 60 and ask them to forward to the Ontario office.

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Mary, Mother of Jesus is the Woman of Inspiration I will be studying for this year. At the convention in April and in my next directives you will hear of why she is so important to me.

God's blessings be with you always,

Helga