



London Diocesan Council  
Of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

To: All Parish Presidents, Regional Chairperson, and Community Life Chairpersons

Cc: London Diocesan Council

From: Kathy Levesque, London Diocesan Chairperson, Community Life

Date: March 12, 2016

Directive # 17

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. (Matthew 25: 35 & 36)*

As I write this directive, I am looking out my window and viewing Mother Nature's hold on winter. Will it ever let up! I am so looking forward for spring.

Pope Francis has asked us to review the corporal works of mercy and take action during the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. There are many that are being done in this directive!

**Development & Peace:** A challenge was issued at the 95<sup>th</sup> annual national convention to increase the 1% Program donations by 11%. This would mean 11 cents per member based on 85,706 members for a total of \$9,703.72. Why not make that an even \$10,000? Is there a way your council can help in this project? Many councils donate 1% of all luxury items they spend on themselves. How about something else like a challenge. An example for this: For myself, my project is that for every Tim Coffee that I purchase I donate .25 cents. (2 coffees a day, 5 days a week, 4 weeks in a month). I figured that I could actually raise \$14.00 just for myself in one month. There are probably many other ways we can think of. Please let me know what your council comes up with. Money raised from the 1% Program goes for helping the women and children of Afghanistan, Nigeria and Haiti.

**Creating a Climate of Change:** during the year during Lent, Canadian Catholics are invited to stand in solidarity with communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East who are struggling for dignity and justice. This Lent, inspired by the Jubilee Year of Mercy and Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*, we are invited to join in a Climate of Change solidarity pilgrimage with our sisters and brothers in the Global South. By opening our hearts and walking hand in hand with most of the poor and vulnerable, we can contribute to building a world rooted in justice, equality, compassion and love. Our generosity is a source of hope! With our donations, Development & Peace is working to create a climate of change and build a more just world

Website ([www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org))

Corporal Works: feeding the hungry, building up communities, helping the poor, sheltering the homeless)

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**Dignity & Rights of Persons:** On January 26, 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found the Canadian Government is racially discriminating against 163,000 First Nations children and their families by providing flawed and inequitable child welfare services and failing to implement Jordan's Principle to ensure equitable access to government services available to children.

For more information on this, please go to [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) and look under the Community Life directives #4, February 2016.

If we look at some of the previous resolutions passed: i.e.: Resolution 1999.01 Elder Abuse / Assault Awareness; Resolution 1999.02 Childhood Abuse in Institutions; Resolution 2002.02 Anti-Bullying Programs, Resolution 2012.01 Criminalization of the Purchasing of Sexual Services or Resolution 2013.01 Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples. We can help in many ways by getting guest speakers to come and inform our councils on different matters pertaining to the above resolutions; providing financial assistance; reaching out and becoming a friend; or educating members on the Annual women's Memorial March for missing and murdered Indigenous women held on February 14<sup>th</sup> of each year. There are many other ways we can help.

(Corporal Works: Feeding the hungry, taking care of the less fortunate, making our voices be heard on matters that can make a change.)

**Sponsoring Refugees** – If any council is thinking of sponsoring a refugee from Syria, please contact Suneet Kharay, RSTP Trainer of Refugee Sponsorship Training Program at 1-877-290-1701 or email [skharay@rstp.ca](mailto:skharay@rstp.ca)

There has been a series of six webinars of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. They will be able to let you know what you need to do. Many cities have already accepted refugees from Syria. The CWL can help make their transition to Canada easier by helping in any way possible.

(Corporal Works: "Welcoming a stranger".)

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide- Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director / International Chair Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, made up a Declaration of Hope on his website in which he is hoping for those who oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide to sign. If you would like to be part of making a difference and want to sign the declaration, this can be done by logging onto Euthanasia Prevention Coalition ([www.epcc.ca/](http://www.epcc.ca/)) and looking for "Declaration of Hope". *Your voice can make a difference in this matter*

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Diocesan Convention in Sarnia in April 2016. Have a blessed and holy Easter Season. May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide you every day.

Kathy Levesque

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