



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: April 2, 2021

FROM: Faith Anderson, national chairperson of education and health

TO: Parish chairpersons of education and health

CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

“To care for the world in which we live means to care for ourselves. Yet we need to think of ourselves more and more as a single family dwelling in a common home.”

(Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*)

As I write this memo, there is a faint hint of spring in the air in Manitoba. Lent has been observed throughout the Christian world, and like spring, it brings hope. Members remember the death of Christ and celebrate His resurrection, bringing new hope as they deal with the pandemic and pray for the League's future.

Catholic Education Week: In this time of pandemic, it is important to acknowledge educational institutions. It is a difficult time for educators, and a show of appreciation would be welcomed. Students have also had to adapt to different ways of learning. Catholic Education Week is recognized at various times throughout the year in each province, with World Catholic Education Day held this year on May 13th.

Care for Our Common Home Initiative: This initiative has been extended to June 30th due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To participate, poll members on eliminating the use of plastic bags and straws. Plant a tree to recognize the 100th anniversary of the League and do a clean-up in the community if you are permitted to gather (physically distanced). Councils are encouraged to take part and complete the survey online at surveymonkey.com/r/CWLEnvironment or e-mail the completed form to info@cw1.ca once your parish council has participated in the initiative.

- **World Water Day (United Nations):** On March 22nd, the conversation was about what water means to people, its true value and protecting this vital resource. A World Water Day Toolkit 2021 is available at worldwaterday.org/learn. Though the date has passed, there is valuable information contained within.

- **Earth Day (Earthday.org):** On Thursday, April 22nd, the 2021 theme is *Restore Our Earth*. If the weather allows, start early to organize a plastic and waste clean-up in the community. For more information, visit earthdaycanada.ca.

Mental Health Week (Canadian Mental Health Association): This year the week will span May 3-9, 2021. The pandemic has created mental health issues for many due to isolation. Reaching out to members and offering assistance (if needed) is essential. Some members are elderly and may welcome a friendly call or offer of help. Many councils have utilized virtual means to meet, and providing a virtual speaker on mental health during this week could be an option. The Canadian Mental Health Association indicates a toolkit will be available on April 1st at mentalhealthweek.ca.

Consider using the League's mental health postcard during this week. Should a full campaign not be an option, perhaps send the postcard to members asking them to forward it to the federal government. Although not ideal, it could be printed at 90% to obtain a postcard size and then place the paper back into printer facedown to print the second page. Each printer may be different; therefore, making a draft copy first is advisable.

National Hospice Palliative Care Week (Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association): This year the week will also span May 3-9, 2021. The League's 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care kit will once again be available to councils on the national website (cwl.ca) by mid-April. Depending on restrictions in each province, participation in this program may vary. If members can meet in person, it could be held in the church. Alternatively, 12 members could be asked to pray for one hour during that week, or a virtual event could be organized.

National Bursary Fund Application Deadline: Postmarked **May 15, 2021**.

Canadian Blood Services Partners for Life: Even during a pandemic, blood donations are urgently needed. Members, friends and family can use the League's unique number, CATH011269, to record donations. Information on the registration process can be viewed at [youtube.com/watch?v=g7YsW_OgPIA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7YsW_OgPIA). Donors with a blood donor number can register at blood.ca, sign in and register. A blood donor number is needed to complete the registration process, at which point, donors can also join a team—CATH011269. This is the only time donors need to register. Each time a blood donation is made, it will be recorded under this number. When new donors make their first donation, they will be given a blood donor number and can register at blood.ca using the same process.

A review of resolutions for archiving has taken place, and due to not being able to meet in person, they have not been formally archived and remain on the national website. The following resolutions require updating with current resources: 1990.07 Environmental Concerns, 1998.03 National Pharmacare, 2001.05 National Strategy for Arthritis, 2004.08 Treatment of Autistic Persons and 2006.04 Renewable Energy. No resolutions will be put forward until 2022; therefore, there is time for councils to research these topics and develop a current resolution.

The emergence of spring and the passing of Lent bring forth hope for new beginnings. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide members to be renewed in protecting our common home, making a safer environment for children and future generations.