

Ottawa Diocesan Council of the
Catholic Women's League of Canada

January 9, 2012

Diocesan Community Life

Communique #3

To: Parish Community Life Chairpersons
From Dyann MacDonald

"Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened and I will give you rest".

Our Provincial Community Life Chairperson is currently working on a Power-Point project focusing on "together we can change the world" building on poverty, dignity for all and our outreach into our communities". She plans to use it at this year's provincial convention and/ or as a motivational CD.

Dignity and Rights of Persons and Refugees, Immigration, and Citizenship

Trafficking of persons continues to be in the fore front as it appears to be on the increase especially amongst farm and domestic workers, also amongst children and Aboriginal women.

In a report by the Standing Committee of the Senate on Human Rights, "The Sexual Exploitation of Children in Canada: the Need for National Action" states that "poverty, homelessness, family violence and racism" are the contributing factors for sexual exploitation amongst children (Communique #6 from National). We are asked to review this report as it contains a good overview of this complex issue.

A good source on human trafficking for Ontario is "Human Trafficking and Refugees in Ontario" available at Distribution Services, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Ottawa ON, K1A 1L1 or online <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/index.asp> You can use this resource for Refugee and Immigration issues too. Canada is recognized around the world for the resettling of refugees and people who need protection. Many of the publications deal on a variety of topics related to refugees.

The Ontario Provincial Government is working with Stakeholders to develop a Crisis Line, available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week for victims of Human Trafficking and Forced Labour. This Crisis Line is expected to be working soon.

Bill C-233 An Act to Eliminate Poverty in Canada would require the federal government to develop and implement a strategy for poverty elimination in consultation with the provincial, territorial, municipal and Aboriginal governments and with civil society organizations (Dignity for all Campaign). We were asked to support this Bill through the use of a Petition to the House of Commons on Bill C-233. Parish Councils were sent this information in December.

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

With Lent around the corner, do not forget to encourage and include in your Lenten program the 1% Program in which the members of a council give one percent of the amount they spend on luxuries throughout the year. Let our good fortune be someone's hope for a better tomorrow.

Development and Peace is committing \$50,000.00 for humanitarian aid to the Island of Mindanao in the Philippines that had a flash flood and landslides created by Tropical Storm "Washi" December 17 and 18, 2011. Parish Councils were sent this information January 9, 2012. Development and Peace are currently accepting donations. You can donate by:

Telephone 1 888 234-8533

Online at www.devp.org

Sending a cheque made out to Development and Peace

1425 Rene-Levesque Blvd. W, 3rd Floor

Montreal, QC H3G 1T7

Please indicate on cheque that it is for the "Philippine Floods"

Please pray for the people of the Island of Mindanao.

Wishing you a Happy New Year and a fruitful year in your work as Catholic Women for God and Country.

Yours in Christ,

Dyann MacDonald