

Communications & Environment Report

Midwinter Meeting January 30, 2016

Madame President, Sisters in the League,

At the instruction of our President, Mary Hunt, I have assumed the maintenance of our Diocesan website. As I tried to fulfil that responsibility and further this site as a resource for our women to use to stay connected and share with other Councils throughout our diocese, I became frustrated with the limitations of the existing format. Due to significant costs to add to the existing site and with the consent of the Diocesan executive, we have created and are solely responsible for our own site. The web address is the same but if you have visited it, you will immediately see the change. We are now able to post images from all Councils that have sent them to me, we have a Diocesan calendar on which we can post any event – if you send it to me, and we can even post video clips and/or links to videos. For example, if you look under the “Officers & Standing Committees”, on the “Communications” tab, you will find a short video clip on Pornography. There really is too much to share in this report – and a picture is worth a thousand words. You have received a slip of paper in your package today with information about the site. I strongly encourage you to use this site as a resource not only for education, but also as a resource for prayer, activities of Pope Francis and his encyclical, and the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Under the “Contact Us” tab you will find an email for each of the Diocesan officers and I urge you to use these emails to contact one of us with ANY question or concern you may have. After all, I am the Communications officer and I firmly believe that we can do a much better job of staying in touch with one another. Should you go the site looking for something, be it a resource, link etc. and there’s nothing there; send me an email giving me the specifics of what you need and I will do my best to find what you need. Please send me either printed photos of events/activities or digital files from your Council ensuring that you include: Name of Council, Zone, title of the event and any names you want included. As of today, I still need FOIP forms from all but 3 councils. This form must only be signed once and is required for us to use images in a public forum. While you’re visiting our Diocesan website, do spend some time on the National site – there is SO much good information there that can be a source of education and discussion at any monthly general meeting. For example, information on “Physician Assisted Dying”, the “Prayer Corner” link,  [the Ecumenical and Interfaith Declaration on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide](http://cwl.ca/please-distribute-and-sign-the-ecumenical-and-interfaith-declaration-on-euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide/) link the [International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking](http://cwl.ca/international-day-of-prayer-and-awareness-against-human-trafficking/) link and digital copies of *Be League* and *The Canadian League*.

**The 50th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Communications occurs on May 8th Pope Francis’ message for this event titled: “Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter” has already been published and I share this small quote with you:**

How I wish that our own way of communicating, as well as our service as pastors of the Church, may never suggest a prideful and triumphant superiority over an enemy, or demean those whom the world considers lost and easily discarded. Mercy can help mitigate life’s troubles and offer warmth to those who have known only the coldness of judgment. May our way of communicating help to overcome the mindset that neatly separates sinners from the righteous. We can and we must judge situations of sin – such as violence, corruption and exploitation – but we may not judge individuals, since only God can see into the depths of their hearts. It is our task to admonish those who err and to denounce the evil and injustice of certain ways of acting, for the sake of setting victims free and raising up those who have fallen. The Gospel of John tells us that “the truth will make you free” (Jn 8:32). The truth is ultimately Christ himself, whose gentle mercy is the yardstick for measuring the way we proclaim the truth and condemn injustice. Our primary task is to uphold the truth with love (cf. Eph 4:15). Only words spoken with love and accompanied by meekness and mercy can touch our sinful hearts. Harsh and moralistic words and actions risk further alienating those whom we wish to lead to conversion and freedom, reinforcing their sense of rejection and defensiveness.

Read the message in its entirety from our web site. Go to the “Officers & Standing Committees” tab and scroll down to the “Communications” tab.[Pope Francis Message for World Day Of Communications: Salt & Light](http://saltandlighttv.org/blog/faith-education/pope-francis-message-for-the-50th-world-day-of-social-communications)

In an ongoing attempt to help our sisters become more comfortable with using computers and the internet, I have some handouts at my display and volunteer my services to come to your council to do a presentation based on the needs of your members. Send me an email using my online address or call me on the phone if that’s easier. I’ve included a couple of links in this report which you can access once my report is posted on our web. [Free Computer Tutorials for Beginner and Senior Users](http://www.free-computer-tutorials.net/), [Computer Tutorials for Beginners](http://www.homeandlearn.co.uk/BC/BeginnersComputing.html)

If you have been reading the WCR, or receive the Edmonton Archdiocesan weekly digital newsletter *Quid Novum* – yes the link is on our web site under “Links” – and listen to just about anything Pope Francis is saying, he is constantly referring to his encyclical “One Care for Our Common Home”. There are so many resources available to our Councils for ideas on how each of us can “live this moral imperative” and I have included a couple of good sites for you to use. There is a wonderful 35-minute video, titled “Laudato Si – A Canadian Response” which you can access through Salt & Light. I have also posted the video under the “News” tab on our web site. [Green Spirit TV](http://www.greenspirittv.com/) is another excellent resource that includes short video clips and a lesson guide for follow-up discussion that would be perfect for a general meeting either as a topic for Health & Education or as the Spiritual Development component. The CCCB likewise has a wonderful document titled “*Building a New Culture: Central Themes in Recent Church Teaching on the Environment”*. What Pope Francis is begging us to do is something – anything – to change our lifestyle to reflect the awareness that God’s Creation is suffering and we are called to heal. Never doubt that you can make a difference by the little things you change.

This ends my report. Are there any questions?



Sr. Susan Scott