Community Life Report

Midwinter Meeting

February 3, 2018

Madame President;

It has been said that Community Life acts as a social justice committee, and is one of the reasons why women join the CWL. It gives members the opportunity to put into action the social justice aspect of our Catholic faith.

The Community Life Standing Committee involves many different areas of social justice. Today I want to name just a few of them.

Human Trafficking - The extent of human trafficking is difficult to assess due to the hidden nature of the crime. Witnesses are reluctant to come forward which means there is difficulty in identifying victims. To read the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking go to www.publicsafety.gc.ca.

Refugees continue to be at the forefront. There are over 800,000 Rohingya refugees currently in Bangladesh. Please keep these refugees in your prayers. The Refugee Welcome Bag project continues to be administered by the St. Charles CWL Council. See my display table for a list of items they can use.

Habitat for Humanity continues to have successful builds in Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan. It is a very rewarding volunteer job and they regularly hold women's builds. You can also support it by donating items and/or shopping at the ReStore. They also need volunteers to help out in the stores. Look for addresses of the ReStores in Edmonton at my display table. More information about Habitat can be found on their website at hfh.org.

The Development and Peace Share Lent Campaign this year is "Together for Peace". Resources can be accessed and ordered by clicking on the link Share Lent 2018 Materials. Their website devp.org provides many suggestions and prayers that Community Life Standing Committee Chairs at the Parish level could incorporate into their councils.

Development and Peace - Caritas Canada are celebrating the January 17, 2018 announcement by the Canadian Government that they are creating a human rights ombudsperson to oversee Canadian mining, oil, and gas operations around the world. They have been lobbying for this for 10 years.

I received several Communiques’ from Sister Susan Scott, the Provincial Community Life Standing Committee chair. Some of the information she sent relates to food wasting over the holidays, a link regard Angel's Cradle, and the third resource she mentioned is connected to our continued commitment to Indigenous People. See my display table for a copy of the Communique’s includes the links to these different sites. Sister Susan states raising people's consciousness and awareness are critical whenever we consider any issues of social justice, human rights, refugees, or immigration.

I want to end by asking you to please say a prayer for the peacemakers in the world who contribute to peace through dialogue, and who want to end the isolation of people and communities. We can have a future based on love, peace, and justice. And again I ask you to continue praying for the end to human trafficking, and for the refugees living in horrible conditions around the world.

This concludes my report.

Are there any questions?

Patti Heck

Community Life Standing Chair

Edmonton Diocesan Council