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*The Catholic Women’s League of Canada*

*Edmonton Diocesan Council*

*Spiritual Development Chair Communique # 3*

*November 2020*



Ladies, I am writing this communique to you on the feast of Christ the King and have chosen the image above to help reflect his vision of both his kingship and his kingdom in which we are called to share through our baptism. Know that every action – or inaction, impacts the furthering of this kingdom “on earth as it is in heaven”. What a wonderful opportunity we have to be co-workers with Christ as we serve one another and the poorest of the poor – including our Mother Earth. Pope Francis has declared this year the “Laudato Si’ Special Anniversary Year”.

“The Jubilee is also a time to listen to the land, to hear the voice of creation and return to our rightful place in the natural created order, remembering that we are part of this interconnected web of life, not its masters. “The disintegration of biodiversity, spiralling climate disasters, and unjust impact of the current pandemic on the poor and vulnerable,” the Pope says, are a “wakeup call in the face of our rampant greed and consumption”. A jubilee, the Pope says, is a time to set free the oppressed such as the indigenous people who face injustice and others who are subjected to various forms of modern slavery, such as trafficking in persons and child labour.

**Debt cancellation**

Stressing that the Jubilee is a time for “restorative justice”, the Pope renews his “call for the cancellation of the debt of the most vulnerable countries, in recognition of the severe impacts of the medical, social and economic crises they face as a result of Covid-19”.

**Restoring the Earth**

Alarmed by the climate emergency, the Pontiff warns that “we are running out of time”, and unless we take action it “will prove catastrophic, especially for poor communities around the world”. He thus invites all nations to adopt more ambitious national targets to reduce emissions.

Lamenting the unprecedented loss of species and degradation of ecosystems, he urges for “restoring the earth to be a home of life in abundance, as willed by the Creator”.

**Indigenous rights**

The principle of “restorative justice”, the Holy Father continues, calls for restoring the right of indigenous communities to regain control of the usage of the land on which they have lived for generations.

“Indigenous communities,” he says, “must be protected from companies, particularly multinational companies, that ‘operate in less developed countries in ways they could never do at home”, through the destructive extraction of fossil fuels, minerals, timber and agro-industrial products.”

He denounces as a “new version of colonialism” the corporate misconduct of shamefully exploiting poorer countries and communities that are desperately seeking economic development.

**Joining hands**

The Pope admits, “We are aware that the cries of the earth and of the poor have become even louder and more painful in recent years.” Yet it is a reason for joy to witness how the Holy Spirit is bringing individuals and communities around the world together to rebuild our common home and defend the most vulnerable.

Young people, communities and indigenous communities are on the frontlines in responding to the ecological crisis. They are calling for a Jubilee for the earth and a new beginning, aware that “things can change”.

The way the “Laudato Si’ Special Anniversary Year” is unfolding is another reason to rejoice. The numerous initiatives at local and global levels for the care of our common home and the poor during the year, the Pope says, should lead to long-term action plans to practise integral ecology in our families, parishes and dioceses, religious orders, our schools and universities, our healthcare, business and agricultural institutions, and many others as well. Vatican News 01 September 2020

The following link will give you some ideas of what has been happening around the world in support of this “Jubilee for the Earth” [Season of Creation - Vatican website](https://www.vaticannews.va/en/taglist.chiesa-e-religioni.Chiesa.tempo-del-creato.html) (<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/taglist.chiesa-e-religioni.Chiesa.tempo-del-creato.html>)

The blessed season of Advent is upon us once again as we celebrate the beginning of another Church year! I’m including a wonderful site that is filled with Advent resources for young and not so young! I’m sure you will find something that will help this sacred season to bring you closer to Christ.

[Loyola Press - Advent Prayers & Activities](https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/?utm_source=cfflist&utm_medium=email&utm_content=202011&utm_campaign=cff) (<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/?utm_source=cfflist&utm_medium=email&utm_content=202011&utm_campaign=cff>)

And finally, a small update on Women’s Role in the Church”. From the Vatican news site:

In his prayer intention for October 2020, Pope Francis asks everyone to pray that women be given greater leadership roles in the Church.

It has become the custom of Pope Francis to release a video message detailing his prayer intention for each month.

This month, the video is a collaboration with the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. It highlights the role of the laity, whom Pope Francis considers true protagonists in the proclamation of the Gospel.

In the video, the Pope asks especially that women be given participation in “areas of responsibility in the Church” because they “tend to be left aside.”

Over his pontificate, Pope Francis has made many gestures to give momentum to this desire to give women greater weight in the Church. The Pope’s Evangelii gaudium reads:

“Demands that the legitimate rights of women be respected, based on the firm conviction that men and women are equal in dignity, present the Church with profound and challenging questions which cannot be lightly evaded” (104). [Pope Francis: Women in Leadership Roles in the Church](https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-10/pope-francis-prayer-intention-ocotber-women-leaders-church.html)

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May God bless each and every one of you and your family members with deep peace, a new heart and vibrant hope,

