



**Ontario Provincial Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
"Inspired by the Spirit,
Women Respond to God's Call"**

Directive # 2

Date: October 19, 2017

To: Diocesan Community Life Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Joanna Sisk, Ontario Provincial Community Standing Chairperson
Cc: Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, National Community Chairperson, Sub-Committee Chairpersons, Archbishop O'Brien

World Day of the Poor

The first World Day of the Poor will be observed on Sunday, November 19, 2017. In his apostolic letter to close the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis suggested the Catholic Church set aside one day each year when communities can "reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel." He designated this day as the World Day of the Poor and it will be celebrated on the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time each year.

A packet from Catholic Relief Services includes prayers, general intercessions, a bulletin insert and homily help to be used leading up to or on the World Day of the Poor. Please feel free to print them out. Visit crs.org/world-day-poor for more digital resources.

HERE ARE 5 WAYS YOU CAN OBSERVE THE WORLD DAY OF THE POOR:

1. **PRAY FOR THE POOR.** There are so many people who need our prayers. If you're overwhelmed and not sure where to start, try praying with your newsfeed. As you see headlines about what's happening around the world, pause and pray for the people affected by those stories.
2. **PRACTICE THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY.** The Corporal Works of Mercy are drawn from Jesus' life and teachings. They call us to: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and imprisoned, bury the dead and give alms to the poor. Pope Francis added a new work of mercy: to care for God's creation. The Corporal Works of Mercy offer a clear model and starting point for how to care for our neighbors in need.
3. **MAKE CARING FOR THE POOR PART OF YOUR ROUTINE.** Do you buy coffee, chocolate or Christmas gifts? One way to support low-income workers around the world is by buying things you use on a regular basis from organizations that pay a fair wage. If you drink coffee or tea, look for a fair-trade label, which means that

the farmers who harvest the coffee or tea are paid fairly and work in safe conditions. As you begin your Christmas shopping, consider buying gifts from around the world that are produced and traded ethically.

4. LEARN ABOUT THE CAUSES OF POVERTY AND WORK TO CHANGE THEM. There are many reasons why people around the world are trapped in poverty: lack of jobs, war and climate change that affects what farmers can grow are only a few examples. We can raise our voices together to ask our government to support policies that help address these causes of poverty.

5. SUPPORT THE CHURCH'S OUTREACH TO THE POOR. One way to care for the poor around the world is to support the work of the Catholic Church.