



**Ontario Provincial Council  
of The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Spiritual Development Standing Committee**



***Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call***

Directive #8

September 2018

**To:** Diocesan Community Life Standing Committee Chairpersons  
**From:** Joanna Sisk, Ontario Provincial Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson  
**cc:** Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, National Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson.

Dear Diocesan Community Life Chairperson,

All thirteen diocese were very creative and successful in becoming more aware of the issues on homelessness. We responded with a wide range of items collected for the homeless. Congratulations on reaching out to others. Our provincial theme will continue to be "Homelessness".

At the Ontario Provincial Council meetings in September a list of initiatives was formulated for the continued project on homelessness. It was suggested that under Community Life there would be a directive issued to introduce an initiative to collect socks, peanut butter and boxes of crackers (aware that some have allergies to peanuts but it is a food item always in demand).

The need for socks continues to be an ongoing request. It was suggested that we collect socks for men, women and children to be donated to homeless, shelters, drop in centers, clothing banks, safe houses, hospital palliative care units, emergency departments and senior homes all over Ontario. The goal would be to donate at least 2019 pairs of socks between now and January 2019. They would be distributed in the diocese that they were collected in. Marie- Theresa, our Communication Chairperson will send out a template for you to use to collect numbers. It would be nice if the Regional Chairs could accumulate numbers for the councils in their regions. This project "Warmth and Comfort" begins October 1<sup>st</sup> and continues until the end of December.

Please send pictures and stories of your projects to our Provincial Communications Chairperson. These would then get featured on Facebook etc. It was understood that all dioceses are currently doing great projects. Send to Marie Theresa to post to Facebook etc. Also if articles are posted in local

newspapers highlighting projects in the community then those should also be sent to Marie Theresa [mtlamphier@gmail.com](mailto:mtlamphier@gmail.com) and shared with all.

This summer I have been touched by the response of homeless people I have stopped to talk to on the street, in shopping center parking lots or in front of liquor stores. It would be so great if we could reach out of our comfort zones and acknowledge them as humans. I would like to propose the following 3-step action plan: STEP 1: Each diocesan community life chairperson could liaise with their parish community of chairperson to compile a list of where the homeless are in their area (eg. shelters, on the street, in parks outside shopping malls etc.) STEP 2: Members might start by simply acknowledging the homeless when they encounter them-a nod, a wave or saying hi as they pass by. STEP 3: Once you feel confident enough, stop and have a conversation. Find out their story. After, share your story and send it to Communications Chair. (Similar to the immigration stories received by the national community life chairperson.) A very touching and humbling experience.

Continue to encourage and support all the initiatives throughout the province such as donations of food, clothing, money etc. to the homeless.

I was most impressed with the response to the \$5.00 gift cards initiative. I would like to see it done again but in the spring in time for convention.

Annual Report time will be upon us so soon. In preparation review the Executive Handbook and the role of Community Life Chair.

It is raining here in Ottawa today, please pray for victims of the tornados especially those with no roof nor home.

Blessings