

The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

**Community Life Standing Committee Communiqué #1**

Submitted by June E. F. (December 2011)

Greetings to my Sisters in the League:

During this Advent season, it is a time to reflect and anticipate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. This is always such a busy time for everyone, but it is also a time that people are more aware of the plight of those who are less fortunate. We need only to listen to the news to hear of poverty and issues of homelessness that many are facing. As women centred on faith and justice, we have the wonderful opportunity to make a difference. I encourage members to be generous in their support of Development and Peace initiatives. As you are aware, D&P is the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada and the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis. Development and Peace is a membership-led organization supported by parish collections, individual donations and government grants, primarily from the Canadian International Development Agency. The vision for D&P is committed to change. For over 40 years D&P has supported 15,200 local initiatives in such areas as agriculture, education, community action as well as the consolidation of peace and advocacy for human rights in 70 countries. This organization is currently working in 30 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East on the following themes:

- ❖ Empowering women, indigenous groups and other marginalized people
- ❖ Building democracy
- ❖ Promoting peace
- ❖ Local management of natural resources, and
- ❖ Strengthening respect for human and environmental rights

At this time of year, we need to reflect on the blessing that we enjoy and consider how we can make a difference. Our 1% program through the CWL is one way that we can help support this wonderful organization.

I would also like to ask members to be aware of the work that is being done in your community to help eradicate homelessness. There is a great deal of information on the web on “Ending Homelessness in Alberta.” The information is good to share with your members and to let them know what strategies are being done to manage and hopefully eradicate this problem.

I wish all of you a blessed Christmas and a renewed energy for the New Year, as we work on supporting those in our communities that are less fortunate.

*June E. F.*

Community Life Standing Committee Chair  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL