

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

COMMUNITY LIFE STANDING COMMITTEE
Communiqué #5 (January 13, 2016) – Carol S.

Happy New Year Everyone! What an exciting time we are experiencing as we continue our work for God and Canada focusing on our wonderful theme: One Heart, One Voice, One Mission. Adding to the excitement we have begun the Year of Divine Mercy.

The following is taken from a post by cwlNational on January 5, 2016:

Pope Francis has designated February 8 as **International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking**

<<http://cwl.ca/international-day-of-prayer-and-awareness-against-human-trafficking/>> .

When the Pope was elected in 2013, he clearly denounced and condemned the multiple forms of violence and exploitation in our world, among the worst, human trafficking.

I would encourage you to read the complete post on the national website:

www.cwl.ca.

What can we do? The following is suggested in the article from national:

Suggested CWL Action Items: February 8 is particularly significant as it is the feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita, a Canossian Sister who was kidnapped and sold into slavery at a young age in Sudan. When she was freed, she chose to enter a religious order and spent the rest of her life helping the poor and the suffering. It is all the more appropriate that on February 8, 2016, Catholics all over the world join in prayer.

This will be the second instance during which we take time to pray for the many people who are denied their dignity, people with no voice, people who are enslaved. Last year, the Talitha Kum Network, a network of nuns helping girls and women rise after becoming victims of human trafficking, initiated the world-wide movement “a light against human trafficking.”

Simple actions we can take: a moment of silence with a group, a reaction to violence on television, a poster in the office on the subject, etc. Councils may find a prayer service entitled *Human Trafficking Prayer Service* on the national website:

www.cwl.ca – click on Resources, click on Spiritual Development

<<http://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Pope-Francis-Prayer-on-Trafficking.pdf>> .

After the prayer service there are more suggestions of activities councils may like to use.

Also under Resources and Community Life there is a 30 – 45 minute workshop entitled Trafficking of Women and Children. This is designed for a parish council meeting.

We are called to make February 8 a day against slavery.