



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

**Education and Health Chair**

**Communique #3**

**DATE: April 24, 2020**



TO: Diocesan Chairpersons of Education and Health  
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)  
CC: National Chairperson of Education and Health (for information)  
FROM: Gerda Hazenberg, Provincial Chairperson of Education and Health

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

*Philippians 4: 6,7*

My dear sisters, who could have imagined the world that we live in today? The empty streets, the empty store shelves, the empty homes without family visitors, the empty workplace, the empty churches, the empty schools and playgrounds, the isolation. Even when some of the restrictions are lifted, we will still need to stay apart. COVID-19 has now infected 2.7 million people across the globe and will continue to spread throughout the world until a vaccine or cure has been developed. Much of life as we lived it at the beginning of 2020 has suddenly changed.

God is calling us to change. Scripture tells us not to be anxious, even if our financial picture is suddenly bleak. We are called to ‘prayer and petition with thanksgiving!’

**Education** ties in very much with awareness and social justice. The global economic structures have in a great part, collapsed. Trade stopped when our shops closed. Most of the ships in our oceans today are not transporting goods but are holding oil which no one wants to buy at this time. This, I have heard, is good for the environment. The air pollution in New Delhi has lifted. We can hear the birds sing again as the noise of our cities has diminished. However, at what cost? Millions of people in our world have lost their livelihood and are literally starving. We are called to pray for a more just world.

**Health**, particularly care for the elderly and challenged among us, is being given a huge wakeup call. We are called, as a League, to stand up and demand responsible standards of care across our country.

In a time when we are asked to stay home and social distance, it is important to keep healthy mentally, spiritually and physically. There are many fitness programs available that we can do in our homes. Find one that works for you.

**The 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care** initiative is encouraged to be used by members during National Hospice Palliative Care Week, May 4-10, 2020. Due to COVID-19, parish councils are encouraged to organize an at-home prayer service. Please check the national website for the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care Kit.

Our League calls us to grow in faith, service and social justice. Let us not neglect to stay in touch with our councils at this time. Hopefully many of you are able to have virtual meetings. Let us pray together. There is much for us to do. I would like to urge everyone of you to go to our Provincial and National websites for information and to stay aware of our mission.

May our Lady of God Counsel keep us safe as the world is faced with this Pandemic.