



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

Education and Health Chair

Communique 2

DATE: April 3, 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

Greetings to all of you my sisters in these unprecedented times. With the onset of COVID-19 our lives as we had lived them and the world as we had known it has changed. Certainly we are being called to change and renewal in so many ways as we approach the Easter Triduum.

“As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and behold the face of God?
My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me continually, ‘Where is your God?’” (Psalm 42)

HEALTH is the main topic these days isn't it? Both physical and mental health is always on the news channels. How many now have been infected, how many have died, how many have recovered. Also, we know that there are grave public concerns for our mental health and well-being. And then there is the economic cost to our society. Are we ever going to be as healthy as we once were? Or will we be a healthier, more just society?

In my community, as I believe in all communities in Canada, extreme precautions have been taken to stop the spread of the coronavirus. We are all familiar with them: social distancing, schools closed, no public gatherings, STAY HOME orders, etc. It is imperative for us to “flatten the curve” so not to overwhelm our health care capabilities. What a wonderful reflection this is of care for our fellow neighbours. We are seeing our communities in an entirely different way. Early this morning, as I was in the grocery store doing my once-weekly shopping, I saw many acquaintances that I had come to know casually over the many decades. From the regulated distance, we smiled and gave a genuine greeting or exchanged just a few words. In the past I may have spent some time speaking with a close friend that I encountered (while being unaware of my surroundings), but now we can no longer gather together and speak. Now we just wish each other well and take care to be apart by two meters. Yet, leaving the store I felt a true sense of community. “Lord it is not about me”. Is what came to mind.

As we are confined within the walls of our homes, we are called to care for our community in different ways. Many of us can no longer go out and work in the food banks or other charitable activities. But we must ask, ‘What is it Lord that I can yet do?’ Find out what the needs are, prepare the sandwiches, network online.

EDUCATION, especially educating ourselves, is the key for all of us. We must look for what the needs are, what our roles are in our communities, and in the world. In this 2020 Pandemic most of us are connected in ways people in the past never dreamed of. There is much to learn. This is the time to delve deeper within our faith and the scriptures. My husband and I are blessed with daily morning mass on Facebook. There is much more time for prayer.

In this time being apart, apart from family, friends, our daily jobs, and our regular church activities, we come to learn again who we are and what our lives are really about. Now is the time to connect with our families and our neighbours. Now is the time to share our faith. 'Our Lord is in charge, have no fear' is the message we give our children and grandchildren. Now is the time to really learn how we can celebrate the greatest feast of our faith, the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour.

Easter blessings of our risen Lord,