



The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
**PRINCE ALBERT DIOCESAN COUNCIL**



***National Theme: Care for Our Common Home***

**President: Helen Kayfish**

**Spiritual Advisors: Fr. Dong Doan and Fr. Maurice Fiolleau**

**August, 2019**

**Communiqué #3**

*"Spiritual growth is the very heart of the League and the essence of its existence. The patroness of the League is the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel." (from the CWL Executive Handbook)*

**To:** Parish Spiritual Development Chairpersons (for action)  
Prince Albert Diocesan Officers and Chairpersons of Standing Committees (for information)  
Saskatchewan Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson (for information)  
Parish Presidents (for information if you have a Spiritual Development Chairperson for your council and for action if you do not)  
Provincial Communications Chairperson (for inclusion on website)

**From: Lorraine Thibeault, Prince Albert Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairperson**

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Good Evening, Ladies and Reverend Fathers:

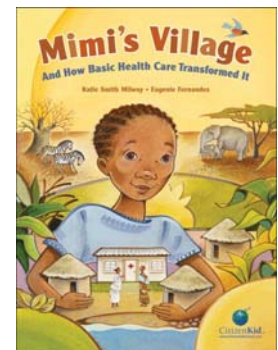
As we begin a new year of CWL meetings and projects, I send wishes for success in your personal and in your CWL life. We continue with our National theme – Care for Our Common Home with a focus in 2019 on water. Yesterday was a Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. If you weren't aware of this day of prayer, just choose another day and pray. We are also encouraged to take practical initiatives to combat earth's environmental crisis.

At our provincial convention in Humboldt in June 2019, our workshop presenter, Anne-Marie Gorman, National CWL President, spoke on her two-year theme "Care for Our Common Home." I have noted a few of her comments.

- We discussed the symbol that goes with the theme – hand holding the planet with two leaves growing out of the planet. It was noted that the hand is a feminine hand.
- Check YouTube CST 101 (Catholic Social Teaching): Life and Dignity.
- Check out St. Francis' "Canticle of the Creatures." (attached below)
- Check out Fr. John McCarthy's, SJ, (a Canadian Jesuit priest and ecologist) new book "Do Monkeys Go to Heaven? Finding God in All Creation." Fr. McCarthy ponders nature's revelation

of God and God's boundless love of us, showing us the need to be both scientific and spiritual. Consider the Living Laudato Si study program. This short course provides an overview of the main themes and messages of Laudato Si. Students are guided through the basic structure of the Laudato Si' message – diagnosis of the ecological crisis, an overview of its theological and philosophical underpinnings, evaluation of the human behaviour at its root, the need for institutional solutions, and the call for personal action.

- Check out the National CWL website [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) for the 800 Series Workshops - 813 - Laudato Si: An Invitation to Change our Hearts
- Check out Scripture: John 1: "The light shines in the darkness" and the gospel of creation.
- The ecological crisis is not a technical scientific problem; it is a human, moral and spiritual problem. We need ecological education and spirituality. Action: We need to balance the need to feed our families with the need to care for the earth. The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are one and the same.
- Check the National website [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) for our focus on water. 2.1 billion people lack sanitary water. Water needs to be a human right, not a commodity.
- We can all try to reduce plastics personally and collectively. Can we have a social ban on certain plastics? Can we use paper and cloth bags instead of plastic ones? Get someone in from your recycling centre to speak about recycling. We are encouraged not to use Styrofoam, plastic bags, and plastic utensils.
- Check out Mimi's Village: Written by Katie Smith Milway In this fictionalized story about a real humanitarian problem facing many countries in the developing world today, readers meet Mimi, an ordinary girl from an ordinary family in Africa. When her younger sister, Nakkissi, gets very sick after drinking unsterilized water from the stream, Mimi learns firsthand how quickly things can go terribly wrong. With no health care provider close by, her whole family must travel on foot to a nearby village to see the one nurse who can provide the medical care her sister desperately needs. Though Mimi is relieved when her sister recovers, she wishes they could get a health clinic in her own village. Several months later, it is Mimi herself who becomes the catalyst to make her wish come true. Author Katie Smith Milway, a former aid worker in Africa, has written the best kind of global education book for children, filled with information that engenders empathy and understanding. Along with further information, a glossary and a map, an addendum includes suggestions for how young children can get involved, highlighting how inexpensive, easy-to-make improvements can transform people's lives. It offers opportunities for inspiring discussions about compassion, volunteerism and making a difference in one's own community and the larger world community.



I encourage for your use three prayers which focus on Care for Our Common Home. The first is the Canticum of the Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi which you can access through the internet. The last two are from the National CWL convention held in Calgary from August 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. They will make a wonderful spiritual start to your meeting while focusing on our theme 'Care for our Common Home.'

Hopefully, you will be able to access them through the National CWL website – [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca). If not, please contact me and I will send you a copy.

Many of our parishes have new pastors and, therefore, new spiritual advisors. Let us remember them in our prayers as they are uprooted from their old parishes and try to do their best for their new parishes.

Have a wonderful September and October. I'll be in touch again in a couple of months.

Take care. God bless.

Lorraine Thibeault