

## Regina Diocesan Community Life Communiqué #1 September, 2019

**To:** CWL Parish Community Life Chairpersons  
**From:** Linda Maddaford

This Convener-ship focuses on *Dignity & Rights of Persons, Social and Economic Justice, Refugees, Immigration & Citizenship, CCO Development & Peace, Developing Countries*

**Dignity & Rights of Persons Human Trafficking Resolution:** In 2018 WUCWO, its member organizations and its representatives at international fora (plural of forum) pledged to work, individually and in network with other related organizations, to:

- a) help families, schools, Church and the community to become aware of human trafficking in order to prevent it;
- b) accompany and work for the recovery and the social inclusion of the victims;
- c) denounce and act against the structures that reduce people to the status of an object;
- d) promote and demand the responsibility of the State in relation to the practice of human trafficking with different concrete actions such as advocating for legislation that makes the purchase of sexual services a criminal act;
- e) provide assistance for victims of sexual violence who are often trafficked, and fight the culture of indifference and impunity. (WUCWO Resolutions Adopted at the 2014 General Assembly.)

**Social and Economic Justice** The World Economic Fund is warning that the world is sleepwalking into a crisis. Global risks are intensifying but the collective willing to tackle them appears to be lacking. In particular we should be extremely concerned about environmental policy failure and the accelerating pace of biodiversity loss. Species abundance is down by 60% since 1970. In the human food chain, biodiversity loss is affecting health and socioeconomic development, with implications for well-being, productivity, and even regional security. (World Economic Fund, WEF Global Risks Report 2019.)

The National Environmental Farm Plan of Canada is a 20 year old international organization with voluntary participants that are committed to producing safe food in a way that ensures the long-term sustainability of their land and business. This organization and the environmental impact tools it provides is currently running a pilot project in Ontario to further develop a National cohesive Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). To date, 35% of Canadian farmers and ranchers have completed an EFP making it the most widely used environmental program in Canadian Agriculture. (National Environmental Farm Plan, Canada.)

**Developing Countries** At the WUCWO 2018 General Assembly the following Resolutions for 2018-2022 were passed:

1. A HEALTHY PLANET DEPENDS ON ALL OF US:
  - 1.1 WUCWO member organizations and International Representatives will encourage, through education, projects, and advocacy the urgent reduction and eventual elimination of single use plastics and the re-use and recycling of disposable plastics.
  - 1.2 WUCWO member organizations and International Representatives will advocate for the elimination of toxic waste.

2. LET US TAKE CARE OF THE FAMILY IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS, ESPECIALLY ITS MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS.
3. LET US ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.
4. LET US EDUCATE TO RESPOND TO THE CALL TO HOLINESS. For further details on these Resolutions please refer to <https://www.wucwo.org/index.php/en/resolutions/resolutions/general-assembly-2018/1028-resolutions-2018-2022>

**Dates and Days of interest to Community Life:**

**Sept 1 - World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.** This will be the fifth World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation as decreed by Pope Francis. According to Pope Francis, 'The annual World Day of prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvelous works that He has entrusted to our care, invoking his help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live.' Intercessory Prayers that may be used for this day of prayer are attached at the end of this communique.

**Sept 1 to Oct 4** - We are asked to join Christians around the world to celebrate the Season of Creation. We can participate as a faith community in this endeavour with prayer, with hands-on projects, with advocacy at our local, regional, provincial and national levels, <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

**Sept 29 - World Day of Migrants and Refugees.** This will be the sixth WDMR as decreed by Pope Francis. A link to the Pope's 2019 World Day of Migrants and Refugees message (4 pages) may be found near the bottom of the page at <https://migrants-refugees.va/resource-center/world-day-of-migrants-refugees-2019/>. Under the Documents link you will find resources for Global and Pastoral Action Points on WDMR. With our Holy Father let us unite to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate people obliged to leave their home and seek a new home among us.

Our Holy Father gave us the framework for our 2019-2020 theme **Care for our Common Home** in his 2015 encyclical **Laudato Si'**. How do we begin to live the Laudato Si' way and truly care for our common home? Here are a few suggestions as a starting point:

1. Can we give up meat one day a week, and use rice and beans, tofu, or eggs for a protein substitute? The goal is to lessen our carbon footprint and our reliance on meat, if only for one day a week. It will be a starting point, but we need to be reminded of the excesses in our diet, and food insecurity around the world.
2. Remember our parents and grandparents adages: 'Waste Not, Want Not', and 'Use it Up, Wear it Out. Make Do, Do Without.' Are we mindful of our use of resources? Can we reuse, re-purpose, recycle or pass on items we no longer have a need for? The landfill should be our choice of last resort and only for things that truly cannot be composted, recycled or reused.
3. Do we reduce water usage for yard care? Water in the morning or early evening so there is less evaporation. Put grass clippings and mulch around bedding plants to retain water. Use drought tolerant plants and try Xeriscaping. Find or make a handout with links to Xeriscape in Saskatchewan for your council members.

4. Can we ban the use of Styrofoam in our parish? It is not recyclable and does not break down in the landfill. Paper cups and plates are a cleaner alternative, but where possible, use regular dishes, cups, cutlery and wash them.
5. Hold a Climate Action Awareness evening for your parish – let us learn together – what should we know, what can we do in our homes, our parish and our wider community.
6. Follow and join the Global Catholic Climate Movement, <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/>. They have just initiated Laudato Si' Circles – a way to pray, reflect, expand our love of creation and hopefully take bold prophetic action. They offer a Handbook and a series of Monthly Guides to help you with this endeavour.
7. Mobilize. In 2017 Pope Francis endorsed the Laudato Si' Pledge Campaign started by the Global Catholic Climate Move. By signing the Pledge you, your family, your parish or organization promise to:
  - a. Pray for and live with Creation;
  - b. Live more Simply;
  - c. Advocate to protect our Common Home. The Pledge tool kit can be found at <http://livelaudatosi.org/toolkit/>

For God and For Canada

### **Climate Justice Prayers of Intercession**

We pray for the waters of the world, that we respect the precious gift and resource of water. That water may be restored to health and filled with bountiful life. God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

Response: We pray to the Lord

We pray for Earth's soil, that its richness be protected from erosion, depletion, overuse of chemicals, to assure abundant harvests of clean food for all. God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

Response: We pray to the Lord

We pray for all creatures who share Earth with us, that their beauty, diversity and habitats will be preserved and saved from harm by our human activity. God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

Response: We pray to the Lord

We pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who have been and will be directly impacted by the effects of climate change. God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

Response: We pray to the Lord

We pray for today's generation and future generations, may they learn from our environmental irresponsibility, and be good stewards living simply and in harmony with all your creation. God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

Response: We pray to the Lord

We pray for all human beings, that we will be filled with a spirit of concern for the future of our environment; bring an end to the exploitation of the earth's scarce resources; and live as responsible stewards protecting and respecting this gift of creation God has placed in our hands. God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

Response: We pray to the Lord

We pray for wisdom for decision makers in Canada and around the world, that wealthy nations may make amendments for the harm they have done to the environment and find creative and just solutions to protect all of creation and ensure climate justice. God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

Response: We pray to the Lord

We pray that we listen to the urging of our Pope, that we see and respond to the need for an ecological spirituality grounded in our faith and Gospel convictions that foster a passionate concern to protect the world.

Response: We pray to the Lord

*Adapted from Earth Day Prayer Service. Climate Justice Intercessory prayers may also be inserted in your parish bulletin through the Season of Creation from Sept 1 to Oct 4.*