Regina Diocesan COMMUNITY LIFE COMMUNIQUE #2 November 2019

To: CWL Parish Community Life Chairpersons

From: Linda Maddaford

Wear Red Fridays – Since 2006 a Wear Red Friday campaign has been ongoing in honour of those Canadians who made the ultimate sacrifice during WWI and WWII and to show nonpartisan support for our active troops. More information can be found at http://www.redfridays.ca/index.htm

Immigration – Marie Rackley, National Community Life Chair reports that between the years 2018 to 2020 Canada expects to welcome almost one million new immigrants. We are reminded to welcome and support immigrants, refugees and new residents to our country with the same generosity of spirit modeled by our founding sisters 99 years ago.

Our provincial President Chantal Devine has chosen "Inclusion" as the theme and focus for her term. She encourages us at the parish, council and personal level to participate in cultural events held in our areas, to welcome immigrant and refugee families and invite them to be part of our parish family. We can support our international sisters through CNEWA, WUCWO, Coady Institute and Development & Peace.

The Development & Peace Fall Campaign is underway, although it is not listed on the National Voluntary Fund form, donations are being accepted and will be distributed to the countries and organizations not under review by the CCCB. The Campaign Guide, Posters, backgrounder information, a Reflection on Integral Ecology can be downloaded at https://www.devp.org/en/education/fall2019/materials. The campaign is focused on Care for our Common Home — all of the materials feature the silhouette of two houses, one upright and inverted, to remind us that wherever we live, we all share one common home — the Earth.

Development & Peace is also circulating a petition as part of the Fall Campaign – <u>Solidarity Letter for the defenders of the Amazon</u> (background: the Amazon and the Congo are the lungs of our planet. In the past 50 years more than 17% of the rain forests in the Amazon have been razed and burned for ranching, mining and oil. Thousands of indigenous peoples have been pushed off of the land without consultation and without resettlement). The goal of the petition is to collect 65,000 signatures by April 2020, the letter may be found on the Development & Peace website from the link above. I encourage you to involve your whole parish in signing the Solidarity Letter. Our signatures will be presented to the peoples of the Amazon in 2020 as a sign of our support for their work to defend the Amazon.

Over the summer I enrolled in and completed the Laudato Si' Animator course, part of the final project was to write a letter to our bishop and to bring awareness of the Season of Creation to our parish or community. There are many practical ways to become more deeply integrated with our ecology and lessen our footprint in the environment. I will continue to write about

Laudato Si' and Care for Our Common Home. Your council may be interested in starting a Laudato Si' study group online. There is an excellent 14 part series on YouTube called 'Understanding Laudato Si' that can be incorporated into local and online study sessions as we move forward seeking simpler ways to live and reduce our lifestyle of consumption.

Every month the youth of the world are organizing a Climate Strike day to bring awareness to our fragile earth and the need to reduce consumption, reduce pollution and they challenge each of us to profoundly change our lifestyles. How much are we as a country consuming? What is Overshoot Day? A country's overshoot day is the date when one year's worth of the world's resource would be completely gone if all of humanity consumed like the people in that country.

