

March 4, 2020

Topics:

Partner's for Life program, with the Canadian Blood Services
Helping Canadians with their Literary skills
Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable
Molly Boucher Bursary
CHABC pastoral care training program
Dates to be aware of, from our National E&H Chairperson

Firstly, a big thank you to our dear Diocesan Chairpersons for their reports this spring.

We have a gentle reminder to support the **Partners for Life** program with Canadian Blood Services. New and regular blood donors are asked to consider registering for the program under the **League's unique partner identification number CATH011269**. We are asked to encourage member's participation in this, by circulating the information and partner identification number.

One of the past members of my Parish Council made it a practice to help New **Canadians with their literary skills**. Daphne would invite South Korean parishioners for tea on a regular basis, with the extra, not of a cookie, but of reading the Bible. Her contention was that the English translation was excellent English, and they were in the presence of God. Our reports from last year noted that 10% to 20% of councils have assisted others with their literary skills. Besides educating new Canadians, there are many Canadians who struggle with reading and writing, some flummoxed by the many forms that our society asks of us. This is a social justice issue – based on principles of the church's social justice teachings, such as global solidarity, dignity of the human person, common good and community, and promotion of peace and disarmament. An offer to help with reading and writing could be a release of a burden that many people carry.

One last pitch for the Education and Health Resolution which was passed at the National convention in 2018:

2018.02 **Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable.**

Because there is no national standard of testing and labelling of products marketed as “flushable”, and many communities spend over \$250 million a year for maintenance and repair of sewer collection systems because of inappropriate disposal of products marketed as “flushable”, we need to encourage our MPs of the need to establish a national standard of testing and labelling of products marketed as “flushable”, and awareness of this issue among our members. Trinity Nanaimo Council has supplied and maintained an extra disposal bin in the church washroom, with the sign, “Please dispose of ‘flushable’ items in this container.’

I am again sending you information for bursaries that are available to our members for the furtherance of their education – the National Bursary Fund brochure, and the Molly Boucher (Provincial) Bursary poster. The submissions date for the National Bursary is May 15, and for the **Molly Boucher Bursary** is **March 31**. Several Councils have bursaries available, so I would appreciate if you would also let your members know about other bursaries available through the CWL.

Catholic Health Association of BC, describes their mission as “*Advancing the healing ministry of Jesus through advocacy, education and partnerships*”. This past year, they have a new **pastoral care training program** that will allow parishes to provide the training on their own, with expert content on video. (The content has been developed by international experts on aging and spiritual care) In addition, each participant has an expertly prepared workbook, as do facilitators. Parishes will now be able to deliver the program at their own pace by having a facilitator to guide the sessions. CHABC will be holding webinars to help facilitators get started. Please contact CHABC for more information at info@chabc.bc.ca Members can take out a personal membership also.

From our informative February issue of the **Education and Health National Communique**: We are encouraged to do what we can to ensure that our Parish_Council representatives are receiving the information that you are sending, and are circulating it; meeting them at your Diocesan meetings may help with this.

March 22 is World Water Day; water use, and climate change are linked. The second year of our National theme is partnering with CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association), who are working towards development of a water well at Pieta Bhavan (House of Mercy).

Related to this is Earth Day on April 22.

May 3-9 is 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care week; a kit for this is available on the National website.

And May 4-10 is Mental Health Week in Canada, for which a postcard is available, to alert our elected representatives of our concern.

May you have a blessed Lent; let us mend our hearts, not our clothes.
May the joy of Easter linger throughout your year.

Together in Christ,

Kathy Weswick
Chairperson of Education and Health