

The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Antigonish Diocesan Council

Ignite your Passion, Empower His Mission.

TO: Parish Council Service Chairs
FROM: Rita Wojtyniak, Antigonish Diocesan Service Chair
DATE: April 25, 2026
SUBJECT: Faith, Service and Advocacy during May
MEMO: # 4 (2024-2026)
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Officers, Life Members, Provincial Secretary (for distribution to provincial counterpart)

Sisters in the League:

In this Easter season we are asked to reflect on Christ's call to love and serve. Supporting and promoting the League's National Voluntary funds - Development and Peace - Caritas Canada, Coady International Institute, Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Catholic Missions in Canada supports those in need while strengthening communities and inspiring all. Development and Peace - Caritas Canada are hosting a **webinar on April 18, 2026 at 2:30 pm (AT)** providing an update on the situation in the Middle East (Palestine, Lebanon and region). Learn about concrete action being taken to support local communities. This will also be available to **view at later dates from the website (info@devp.org)**.

National Hospice and Palliative Care Week, May 3rd -9th, 2026

Through prayer and action, we live our Catholic faith. We ask members to guide their parish communities in prayer, compassionate service and a commitment to dignity. Unite in prayer and compassion to support those nearing the end of life, offering comfort to not only the person but family members and care givers.

What can we do for SERVICE: Collect small comfort items like fleece blankets, widget quilts, prayer shawls, socks, toiletries, hand cream, lip balm, mini notebooks and pens; provide rosaries and recite with them; send thinking of you cards. Consider providing gift cards to help cover patient needs or supplies at hospice.

Join **12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care**. A Supplement to 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care has been developed; prayers are available for services and printouts are available on the national CWL website.

Resolution 2025:04: Federal Government to Complete the Development of the Office of Palliative Care to ensure early, universal and equitable access for all Canadians. A post card pertinent to this resolution will be enclosed in parish handouts for councils that may wish to initiate action via a post card campaign. On other hand, the MaiD Campaign allowing assisted suicides, has full government backing and support.

The Palliative Care Society of Cape Breton County is hosting the **SUNFLOWER TREASURE POP UP SHOP** in support of Hospice Cape Breton which offers comfort and care programs for palliative patients and their families. The Pop Up Shop will be held at the Waterfront Campus of NSCC - Building 2. Donations may be dropped off May 6th – 9th, 12 – 4 pm. Donations include curated fashion and home décor; fabric (home and quilting); knitting (yarn, wools and supplies); kitchen ware, pyrex, corning, fine china, glassware; vinyl records; collectibles; vintage toys and dolls. Preview May 14th (6 -8 pm) and Sales **May 15th -16th, 2026 from 10 am-5 pm.**

The **COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR WALK and CAMPAIGN** held in February was a resounding success. 25 CWL councils in 5 provinces raised over \$91,000.00 in support of those experiencing homelessness and hardship. Those members “Walked the Talk”. We encourage local councils to become more aware of **POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS** in our communities and get teams ready to participate next February 2027.

May is the month of Mary, Mother of the Poor

May invites CWL members to live their faith through prayer, service and advocacy. Pray the Rosary, celebrate Mary.

RED DRESS CAMPAIGN May 5th

Honour missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people through awareness and education.

NATIONAL FAMILY AND LIFE WEEK (mid-May)

Celebrate and support families as places of love, dignity and safety for every child.

NATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY WEEK

Encourage councils to promote inclusion for those facing barriers and to uphold dignity at every stage of life.

Your sister in the League,

Rita Wojtyniak, Antigonish Diocesan Service Chair