

## ANTIGONISH DIOCESAN COUNCIL SOCIAL JUSTICE CHAIR

**Annual Report: 2024**

**# of councils reporting:17/27**

The National Office sent a memo on October 29, 2024 to tell parish councils they would receive annual surveys to complete by December 15<sup>th</sup> which would give a snapshot of what is happening around the country and that the diocesan and provincial councils would be notified when the survey was completed by each group. Laurena Greencorn, Antigonish Diocesan Vice-President, sent a message to the parish presidents that the surveys, with questions specific for each executive position, were open and the link was given and a message from Betty Colaneri National Vice-President that told our answers help to tell the complete story of the League in 2024. In January 2025, diocesan council received the annual report summary indicating 17 councils in our diocese had completed the 2024 survey.

**It was easy to see councils had identified concerns, planned, and advocated for change.**

Under social justice, the parishes (numbers in brackets) reported that there was **monitoring and action of legislation** and bylaws at **all levels of government** (federal (11), provincial (11), municipal (6)) during 2024.

League **resolutions** at all levels of CWL (national (5), provincial (5), diocesan (10) had action by councils. To continue in **advocacy, our parish council members planned and acted by** initiating or participating in letter writing campaigns (12), postcard campaigns (12), petitions (9), briefs (1 council), considered or drafted a resolution that has not yet been submitted (3), and one resolution was submitted.

Our members used the **updated and new social justice resources on the national website** for their planning: Toolkit for Social Justice (5), Resolutions Handbook, Resolutions Guide and workshops (2), social justice/Catholic social teaching manuals and workshops (2), and Indigenous relations (e.g., Walking Together with Indigenous Catholic Women) (3).

Advocacy was very active in our communities as our parish councils have addressed areas of **Catholic social teaching** through discussion, and/or action: 16 councils upheld the **life and dignity of the human person** (e.g., abortion, medical assistance in dying and palliative care, Internet safety, human trafficking, international human rights), 12 councils addressed **advocacy for the poor and vulnerable and their inclusion in society** (e.g., truth and reconciliation, Nunavut baby supplies, Every Women's Center Adopt a Family, Loaves and Fishes food drives, clothing collections and distributions, donations to shelters, persons living with disabilities and mental illness, refugees and immigrants, dues for members was noted, racism, ageism and ableism), 10 parish councils advocated for the **dignity of work and equal rights of workers** (e.g., healthcare workers 's conscience rights, economic justice) and 10 councils addressed **care for God's creation** (e.g., promotion of Laudato Si, the Season of Creation, environment protection).

Eleven councils reported that these social justice actions had a positive impact on the parish council.

*Denise Forgeron*

Antigonish Diocesan CWL Council Social Justice Chair