



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

London Diocesan Council



Environment Care

To: All Parish Presidents, Education and Health Chairpersons
CC: London Diocesan Council, Dara Hartman and Mary Kennedy (subcommittee members)
From: Mary Bannon, 1st Vice-President, Education and Health
Date: September 2018
Directive # 2

Saint Francis of Assisi loved the earth; he walked respectfully over the land as holy ground. When he walked over rocks, "he would walk with fear and reverence out of love for Him who is called 'the Rock.'" We too are called to tread lightly on our planet, always supported by our Earth home, which has been created to sustain us in every moment. Franciscan Meditation

Back to School: Our students have returned to school after their summer vacation. Some of you are involved as members of the School Council, some share their love of the rosary in praying the Rosary with the children and some read to the little ones. Prayer: "Teach us, O Lord that every day, down every street, come chances to be God's hands and feet." (Joe Gargiola) Let us all pray for the students and teachers. Our prayers unite us to the schools and help preserve our Catholic system.



The Environment: I have great concern about our care of the earth, our common home. In *Laudato Si'*, his encyclical on care of the earth Pope Francis said, "The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us."

Brayden, a 10 year old boy, shares his thoughts, "When I have done beach clean ups the number one thing I have picked up are plastic straws so I have seen what an impact they make on our environment first hand. Each year one million sea birds and 100,000 marine animals die from eating plastic. And most straws are used for only 20 minutes, but every day, 500 million straws are used in the U.S. - enough to circle the earth 2 times." 57 million daily in Canada. My challenge for us is to not use plastic straws in our drinks; ask about paper straws.



Health: September is Ovarian Cancer and Thyroid Cancer Awareness month. What do you know about ovarian cancer? Do you know there is no test for ovarian cancer, and that a Pap test does not detect the disease? There are symptoms, which are subtle, that can mimic those of unrelated conditions. Termed "the silent killer," it continues to be the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers. Thyroid cancer is becoming more prevalent. When you have your mammogram ask for the neck collar during the procedure. When you get dental x-rays be sure the dentist wraps the collar from the shield around your neck. For more info: www.cancer.ca for symptoms. Wear a teal coloured ribbon. Take care of yourself. After all, there is only one of you! You are unique!



Blessings! Mary