



Halifax- Yarmouth Diocesan Council Service Communiqué 01 September 23, 2023

**Joline Belliveau, National Chairperson of Service, September 6th, 2023**

### **Communiqué 01 -Service**

*Here I am Lord, send me*, which is our new Theme. In the past five years, so much has changed in the League that affects all levels. By now, most of the League has embraced the new positions, which involve the three standing committees and the re-assigned responsibilities. Under the **Service standing committee**, some of **Christian family life, Community life and Education and Health** activities are found. Parish activities is no longer a separate position. I strongly recommend reviewing the changes in the [Constitution & Bylaws](#) and the [National Manual of Policy and Procedure](#). This material should always be your invaluable tool of reference.

For my first communique, I would like to address a letter sent to the League from the Coady International Institute. As you know the Coady is one of the national voluntary funds. The League, since 1961, has partnered with the Coady to provide financial assistance to help women to take the leadership programs offered on St. Francis Xavier University campus. Lack of finances is the primary reason why women cannot attend.

Last year the League collected and sent \$13,051.15 to the Coady to support its scholarship fund. The total cost for a person to attend the leadership program is \$25,000. Offered on an international basis, the Coady continues to provide courses, reaching out to women in Canada as well as around the world. The courses offered are innovative and dynamic and may be taken on campus or online. At the Coady there is a focus on encouraging women to create a positive change, and to recognize and address issues such as inequality, injustice, racism and sexism.

### **Communiqué #02 – Service**

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Joline Belliveau, National Chairperson of Service, September 13th, 2023

What is the best definition of service? “An act of helpful activity; help; aid” (Collins Dictionary). The national executive/board has recently transitioned to the new structure recommended in the five-year strategic plan. Service is one of the three pillars—faith, service and social justice. “Service is a pillar of the culture of encounter: ‘It means bending over those in need and stretching out a hand to them’...” (Pope Francis). In the League, members are called to service in various ways to share their gifts and talents. They are called to value the human spirit with dignity and respect. While members serve, they develop bonds with each other and relationships with those they serve. Many friendships in the League form while serving others, whether through delivering a tray of food, volunteering at a charity event, or reading a book to someone visually impaired. Members truly evangelize their faith as they serve.

Monthly meetings need not always be held at the same time, on the same day or place. Consider scheduling an activity of service instead of the monthly meeting, or schedule a meeting in a daycare centre, a room in a local hospital, or a shelter for young people. Many councils have wonderful ideas, projects, and fundraisers. On the national website are two documents to help you, particularly those at the parish council level, discover how to develop your own service projects or use the suggestions/ideas provided: “The Joy of Leadership—Module 1: Ministries” (835/835a) and Toolkit for Service (637). Both sources are invaluable tools in assisting councils while developing a service ministry that will benefit everyone involved. Please use them.

## Treaty Day: October 1



October 1 is recognized in Nova Scotia as Treaty Day. Archbishop Dunn, in collaboration with the Mi'kmaq Grand Council, will honour this day in the context of the 10:30am Mass at Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica on Sunday, October 1. Some Mi'kmaq traditions will be included in the Mass and members of the Mi'kmaq community will take part in various ministries of the Mass. All are welcome!

Treaty Day activities that have highlighted treaties, the Mi'kmaq community, and the culture have been minimal during the pandemic as a result of this various health and gathering restrictions. This year, there is a shared hope from the local Church and Mi'kmaq communities that the recognition and activities of Treaty Day can be renewed.

The purpose of Treaty Day is to promote public awareness about the Mi'kmaw culture and heritage for all Nova Scotians. Specifically, it also celebrates the anniversary of our 1752 Treaty of Friendship and Peace. Held annually on October 1, Treaty Day also marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia, as proclaimed in 1993 by Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy.

## Life Chain: October 1



Life Chain is an annual pro-life event that raises awareness about the injustice of abortion and the inherent dignity of every human being. Please join us this year at on Robie St. across from the Commons from 2:30-3:30pm.

Organizers will greet you and your fellow attendees and provide you non-graphic signs with messages like “Abortion kills children,” “Abortion hurts women,” “Life, the first inalienable right,” and “Adoption, the loving option.” You will be asked to spread out along the sidewalk and to pray silently for the hour. For more information, you may visit: [campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain](http://campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain).

## Catechetical Sunday: October 1



Let's celebrate those who pass on the faith! As part of our diocesan pastoral priority of catechesis, on Sunday October 1 parishes will be celebrating Catechetical Sunday. As the pastoral year begins, this is an important time of commissioning and recognition of catechists within our parish communities. It is also an opportunity for formation of catechists and presenting opportunities for catechesis to the broader parish community. Please pray for all of those within our communities who are catechists; not only those teaching the faith to our youth, but also those leading Bible studies, adult formation groups, RCIA, and every kind of ministry where the faith is being handed on.

### **A Prayer for Catechists**

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists.

We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church.

Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word.  
Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you.

Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important;  
knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning;  
right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of  
adversity;

reverence before all that is sacred and holy;  
and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son.

We pray this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

### **Calendar of Events**

**24 September 2023:** International Day for Migrants and Refugees

**3 December 2023:** International Day for the Disabled

**31 December 2023:** Feast of the Holy Family

**4-10 February 2024:** National Week of Catholic Health Care

**11 February 2024:** International Day of the Sick

**13-19 May 2024:** National Family and Life Week 2024

**28 July 2024 :** International Day of Grandparents and the Aged

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie-Claire Arseneau

Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Service Committee Chairperson

