



## Halifax – Yarmouth Diocesan Council

### Social Justice

#### Communique 1

September 2023

Sisters in the League:

Much like New Years' Day, September seems to be a time for new beginnings. As the warm days of summer end, we get to work on new projects and roles. For me, this means a new position as Social Justice Chair. I add this to a list of previous chairs for the Yarmouth-Halifax Diocese (Resolutions, Legislation, and Christian Family Life).

The issue of social justice can seem overwhelming; dealing with issues such as the climate crisis, human trafficking, domestic violence, homelessness, and immigration. How can we possibly have an impact on such huge global challenges? However, the CWL Social Justice Toolkit reminded me that social justice is another way of saying, "Love One Another" or "Love Your Neighbour as Yourself". To love our neighbour means we need to know them. If we educate ourselves about the things that impact the lives of others, we can respond with love.

In this communique, I will focus on the Resolution passed at the last National Convention – *Resolution 2023.01 - Combating Textile Waste in Canada*. The brief of the resolution sheds light on the environmental impact of textile waste, specifically the large amount of textile waste, often plastic, that ends up in landfills.

#### What can we do as Individuals?

1. Choose natural fibres – wool, cotton, linen, and silk will naturally break down unlike spandex.
2. Avoid Fashion Trends – If we keep clothes longer, less will end up in landfills. Don't assume that the clothes you donate after you purchase new clothes will be used.
3. Purchase Preowned clothes – There is an excess of used clothes being donated to charities. Make these the first place you look for what you need and take only what you need.
4. Avoid 'Fast Fashion' - Poorly made clothes are more likely to wear out and be discarded.
5. Repurpose – If an article of clothes is stained or torn, try to save some of the fabric for other things like patchwork quilts, or cleaning clothes.
6. Remember that each choice we make is a reflection of how we love our neighbours, and the world God gave us.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dorrian