



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA  
TORONTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL  
**102<sup>nd</sup> Convention Oral Report**  
**April 24 and 25, 2023**  
**Ajax Convention Centre**  
**550 Beck Road**  
**"Called To Serve"**



Name: Elizabeth P. Joseph  
Standing Committee: Community Life  
Share the Word: Justice

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Madame Chair: Justice.

Justice is the "moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2013). It is the "quality of being just and has to do with righteousness, moral rightness; and the moral principle determining just conduct, such as just treatment of all members of society regarding specific issues, that include equitable distribution of resources and participation in decision making" (Dictionary.com).

Ecological justice includes "both climate and environmental justice that entails the economic, political, social, environmental and spiritual well-being of all people" (Development and Peace). Climate justice is a human-centred approach to responding to the challenges of climate change that embraces human rights, equity, and fairness (GRAN, 2019); and our "sensitivity to securing the future of poorer people from the perils of natural disaster" (Dictionary.com). Small family farmers are at the heart of climate justice. They occupy 20% to 30% of arable land, feed the world by producing 60% of food consumed worldwide, but are confined to small plots of land and lack the financial resources to combat the impacts and consequences of climate change. Therefore, we aim to support agroecology and development of small farmers' markets (Development and Peace).

Environmental justice means that "all people regardless of race or income have the right to a clean healthy environment" (US EPA, 2023). Our migrant farm workers in their unsanitary accommodations and First Nations living with long-term boiled water advisories because of the contaminated rivers on their traditional lands. Health justice is reflected in the amount of food waste that goes to landfills that emit methane gas to people living close to landfills.

Economic Justice refers to mining developments for minerals such as nickel required for 'green' energy and electric vehicles, that are conducted at the expense of the water quality, environment, and way of life of indigenous communities. Advocate through 'Hope for Mining Justice'



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Social justice has to do with the rights and dignity of human persons. Human Trafficking is exploitation of the human person. It is our responsibility to become educated in the signs of Human Trafficking, to recognize and assist victims and support organizations that provide support to them. Advocate for specialized anti-human trafficking training for law enforcement officers.

Restorative justice, a system of criminal justice which focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and engaging the community in the justice process.

As members of the Catholic Women's League, we are 'Called to Serve' as we implement the three pillars of Faith, Service and Social Justice. In Faith, we pray to St Josephine Bakhita to intercede to end Human Trafficking. In Service, to volunteer and contribute to local homeless shelters and Food banks. Write letters to government Ministers to advocate for an increase of adequate housing for the underhoused. In Social Justice, we share with those at home and abroad by supporting the national voluntary funds that sustain others globally.

Now that the Doctrine of Discovery has been renounced, it creates an opportunity to journey with indigenous peoples on the path to reconciliation. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, National Indigenous day, we are encouraged to participate in closer relationships with our Indigenous peoples by learning an Indigenous language and enhancing our pronunciations. As 'Catholics and Living It, guided by Scripture in Micah 6:8, we 'act justly' and walk humbly with God.

My written report can be found on pages 21-22 of the 2022 Annual Report Book This concludes my report.

Elizabeth P Joseph  
Community Life. Standing Community Chair