

## Catholic Women's League

### Kingston Diocesan Council

#### Education and Health Directive #2

Chairperson: Maureen Vincentine

2014-01-10

Welcome to all new Education and Health chairpersons. In your position, you are able to do much to bring the interests of the Catholic Women's League to your council and to your parish. I hope that from this directive you will be able to choose two or three ideas or initiatives that you might present to your council for information or action.

In this directive, many of the comments and suggestions came to me from Carol Richer, our past diocesan president and now our provincial Education and Health Chair.

**Catholic Education** must never be taken for granted! Approximately 600000 students in Ontario attend Catholic schools. Small contributions on our part are much appreciated by parents, staff and students. Education week will be here before we know it! It is May 5 to 9. This might be a great time to offer some support. Some ideas I would like to present:

- Call the school and ask if they want some assistance with a special project.
- Send a tray of cookies to the staff with a card from your council
- Facilitate a crowning ceremony or pray the rosary with a class
- Attend a Mass or concert they are planning that week. Perhaps provide treats .

Be a liaison between home and parish by sending updates to school newsletters. Simply call the principal for permission to send e mail submissions. Let parents know about sacramental preparation dates, Lenten events in the parish etc. Don't forget to include Catholic Women's League meeting dates and initiatives.

At an adult education meeting, I learned that a confirmation preparation binder has been sent to parishes by The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic School Board. If you or some of your members are helping with preparation for the sacrament, the binder should be useful.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:** During Lent candidates in your parish may be studying and preparing to become Catholics during the Easter Triduum. Please make them feel welcome. Perhaps some of your members might attend a meeting and tell them about the work of the League. Perhaps you might offer a free membership to any ladies who are candidates and invite them to a meeting. Your council might share a meal or treats with them at some point. The important thing is to recognise them, welcome them and involve them in the life of the parish.

**Scholarships and Bursaries:** The National Bursary Fund: Make members aware of how it might be used. Forms and criteria can be found at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca). Deadline for applying is May 31 of each year.

**Health Issues:** In 2014, the current Health Care Accord – the deal that regulates health services delivery between federal and provincial and territorial governments, expires and must be re negotiated. We must remind politicians how much we value good healthcare. Visit [www.canadians.org/content/take-action-2014-health-care-accord](http://www.canadians.org/content/take-action-2014-health-care-accord) to learn more. At this site is a letter that you are encouraged to send to our government Ministers. Perhaps at a meeting you might bring copies of the letter and encourage members to sign.

CWL resolution ON.13.01 urges us to “become educated about the reality of mental illness in an effort to reduce the stigma that exists in society”. If you have not yet had a speaker or planned a meeting around this initiative, I encourage you to do so. Perhaps two or three parishes could combine and have a speaker from mental health. Perhaps members of your own council might lead a discussion on how mental health affects families.

As assisted suicide is frequently in the news, we should learn more about palliative care and how to make a person’s last days comfortable and dignified. Our local hospice organizations would be excellent resources. Have a speaker come to a meeting.

Concussions are a topic of interest, especially to families with children who are involved in sports. I have attached a list of signs of concussions. This might be worth bringing to a meeting and suggest members take a copy to give to family, friends and neighbours with children.

**Development and Peace:** The education campaign hopefully took place in your parish and now we are planning for the Share Lent workshop. It will be held at Providence Centre March 1. We would like to see more parishes involved in this workshop. The Catholic Women’s League has always been a strong partner of D&P. We hope that you or a delegate from your parish will attend this workshop. Watch your bulletin for details. Also encourage members to follow the work of D&P by going to the website [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org).

In closing, I remind you that we cannot follow up on every initiative presented! However, hopefully there is one or two suggestions that you feel your council might like to do in the remaining winter and spring.

I am also including a list of internet resources passed on to me by Carol. Lots of important reading!!

May god continue to bless us in our work.

Maureen Vincentine