



## **The Kingston Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

***One Heart, One Voice, One Mission***

### **Directive#1**

**Date:** October 24, 2015

**To:** Parish Council Christian Family Life Chairs

**From:** Elizabeth Knudson, Christian Family Life Chair

**CC:** Diocesan Executive, Provincial Christian Family Life Chair

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In this directive I would like to tell you a little about myself and give you an idea of what my objectives for the following two years are going to be. I am a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Gananoque. This is my second term on the diocesan council. Last term I served as Community Life Chair. I am excited to return as Christian Family Life Chair.

Over the next two years I will be reporting on all the topics which are covered under Christian Family Life with my focus being on marriage and sanctity of life. The headings are:

- Marriage and family
- Sanctity of life
- Vocations
- Ministry to: youth, widowed, disabled, separated, seniors, divorced

Christian family life is foundational to our Christian living and spirituality, especially true in this time when family, as well as the whole church, is so vulnerable to the destructive influences of the outside world. At the 2015 CWL National Convention, guest speaker Pavel Reid warned that the church is in trouble and that 20-40% of Catholic marriages will fail and 50% of children coming from Catholic families will not practice their faith. We can educate ourselves and be informed of the important issues.

End of life issues have gained prominence and life threatening decisions are being considered. For example, on Feb 6, 2015, the supreme court of Canada struck down Canada's law preventing assisted suicide and gave parliament a year to enact a new law. This is the time to contact your members of parliament, the minister of justice and attorney general of Canada, the Prime Minister to state legislation to protect the most vulnerable members of our families.

Barbara Dowding wrote a letter to Prime Minister Harper about physician assisted dying. You may read it at [cwl.ca/letter-to-the-conservatives-re-physician-assisted-dying](http://cwl.ca/letter-to-the-conservatives-re-physician-assisted-dying). Members are urged to write letters prior to January 2016 when distribution of RU486 (a morning after pill) is planned to commence.

During the 95th annual national convention in Vancouver in August 2015, a motion was approved to add the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition as a temporary national voluntary fund. Find more information at [info@epcc.ca](mailto:info@epcc.ca)

If you do not already have a copy of the **Christian Family Life Study Kit** you can download the 27 page manual, purchase a copy of it from the national office or review it on-line. I highly recommend this resource to add to your cache of resources. You can find out more about this in the **Executive Handbook** pages 41-46.

Christian family life is critically important to the life and growth of the Catholic Church. Within the CWL we have the opportunity to be part of a positive change and reach out to our fellow Christian sisters who have drifted away from their faith but are fully in need of Christ's saving love.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Knudson