

**Kingston Diocesan Council
Christian Family Life**

Directive #1

September 27, 2014

To: Parish Christian Family Life Chairpersons

From: Marjorie Facette, Diocesan Christian Family Life Chairperson

Cc: Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Life Members, and Diocesan Executive.

“We are born to love, we live to love, and we will die to love still more”. – Saint Joseph Cafasso

I would like to welcome any new Christian Family Life chairpersons. Let us make this new term with the help of Our Lady of Good Counsel a successful and Spiritual year.

Autumn is here winter will follow soon. It is time for bring in the harvest and to be **thankful** for the bountiful that we have received. **Thanksgiving** is a time to be thankful for all our family and friends.

**Please pray for upcoming Synod of Bishops on the Family, meeting at the Vatican
between Oct. 5 – 19, 2014**

Faith and the family

52. In Abraham’s journey towards the future city, the Letter to the Hebrews mentions the blessing which was passed on from fathers to sons (cf. *Heb* 11:20-21). The first setting in which faith enlightens the human city is the family. I think first and foremost of the stable union of man and woman in marriage. This union is born of their love, as a sign and presence of God’s own love, and of the acknowledgment and acceptance of the goodness of sexual differentiation, whereby spouses can become one flesh (cf. *Gen* 2:24) and are enabled to give birth to a new life, a manifestation of the Creator’s goodness, wisdom and loving plan. Grounded in this love, a man and a woman can promise each other mutual love in a gesture which engages their entire lives and mirrors many features of faith. Promising love for ever is possible when we perceive a plan bigger than our own ideas and undertakings, a plan which sustains us and enables us to surrender our future entirely to the one we love. Faith also helps us to grasp in all its depth and richness the begetting of children, as a sign of the love of the Creator who entrusts us with the mystery of a new person. So it was that Sarah, by faith, became a mother, for she trusted in God’s fidelity to his promise (cf. *Heb* 11:11).

53. In the family, faith accompanies every age of life, beginning with childhood: children learn to trust in the love of their parents. This is why it is so important that within their families

parents encourage shared expressions of faith which can help children gradually to mature in their own faith. Young people in particular, who are going through a period in their lives which is so complex, rich and important for their faith, ought to feel the constant closeness and support of their families and the Church in their journey of faith. We have all seen, during World Youth Days, the joy that young people show in their faith and their desire for an ever more solid and generous life of faith. Young people want to live life to the fullest. Encountering Christ, letting themselves be caught up in and guided by his love, enlarges the horizons of existence, gives it a firm hope which will not disappoint. Faith is no refuge for the fainthearted, but something which enhances our lives. It makes us aware of a magnificent calling, the vocation of love. It assures us that this love is trustworthy and worth embracing, for it is based on God's faithfulness which is stronger than our every weakness.

*As we can see Family and Faith **cannot** be separated.*

I recommend to all CFL Chairs to:

- Promote family prayers
- Assist families in need especially single parent families in your parishes
- Financial support to families in crisis
- Adopt a local family.

(Taken from Marlin Taylor Directive September 2014)

There are so many ways councils can assist families at home and abroad to build better lives, society and healthy community.

Prayer to the Holy Family

<p>Jesus, Mary and Joseph, In you we contemplate The splendour of true love To you we turn with trust.</p> <p>Holy Family of Nazareth Grant that our families too May be places of communion and prayer, Authentic schools of the Gospel And small domestic Churches</p>	<p>Holy Family of Nazareth, May families never again Experience violence, rejection and division: May all who have been hurt or scandalized Find ready comfort and healing.</p> <p>Hold family of Nazareth May the approaching Synod of Bishops Make us once more mindful.</p>
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Respectively submitted – Marjorie Facette CFL

