



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

Christian Family Life

Care for our Common Home

Directive #4

Pages: 2

Date: February 9, 2019

To: Parish Council Christian Family Life Chairs

From: Colleen Hill, Diocesan Christian Family Life Chair

CC: Diocesan Executive, Provincial Christian Family Life Chair

"Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?"
(Matthew 20:22)

Some suggestions are here for parish councils to consider in promoting the various components of Christian Family Life. Please use only what you can manage, keeping in mind your own council's needs and capabilities. Please connect with me for any assistance.

Sanctity of Life

National Palliative Care Week in Canada is May 5-11, 2019. The theme is: 'WHAT MATTERS MOST?'. The League suggests a *12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care* event at the parish level – if this is too great an undertaking, perhaps consider a shorter version at your church with committed intervals for the extra hours covered by house-bound prayers by several members. I might suggest that the 2nd film 'The Euthanasia Deception' from The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (\$30 – running time 1 hr.) could be incorporated somehow. Dr. Michael Brescia, of Calvary Palliative Care Hospital in the Bronx, New York suggests that "*palliative care should be honoured and celebrated as the Vestibule to Heaven*". Let's be creative and continue to keep the sanctity of life – at its beginning AND its end - uppermost in our prayer life.

Marriage and Family

National Week for Life and the Family also takes place in May, from the 12th to 19th, beginning with Mother's Day. The Catholic Organization for Life and Family offers several resources for our use, through the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. The theme is 'Listening to the Gospel as a Family'. Go to the CCCB website (cccb.ca) for free downloads of prayer cards, posters, Prayers of the Faithful, suggestions for events and activities for the week, etc.

Widowed, Divorced, Separated

Our primary goal as Catholics eternal salvation. Generally, people have the support system of a spouse, close family, good friends to help us on our way. When life sends us a curve ball, and we lose that support for whatever reason, it is important for the whole

Body of Christ to rally around the individual who experiences death of a spouse, loss of a marriage etc. Emotional and prayer support is invaluable. Include the newly bereaved or newly separated in your activities and projects. Another idea you might consider especially for Lent is The Stations of the Cross for Widows, by Ronda Chervin: <http://www.rondachervin.com/pow.htm>

Youth

The 12th annual *St. John Fisher Dinner*, a fundraiser for CCO, Catholic Christian Outreach, is being held at the Ambassador Hotel, Kingston, on Shrove Tuesday, March 5th. Cost is \$100/ticket. Speaker will be His Eminence Jorge Cardinal Urosa of Caracas – a country in great turmoil. Call Dan at 613-217-2819 for details. Many young Catholic students from Queens offer their personal testimonies about their faith and/or conversions at this dinner too.

In Henri Nouwen's book, 'Can You Drink the Cup?' he suggests that we 'hold the cup of life and look critically at how we are living'. He admits that this is a very courageous thing to do as we may be terrified by what we see. This Lent, find a way – personal prayer, a retreat, Sacrament of Penance etc. - for spiritual reflection, so that you too can drink the cup and join with Jesus in the Resurrection at Easter.

Respectfully submitted.