



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

Education and Health

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

Directive #2

Pages: 3

Date: February 10, 2018

To: Parish Council Education and Health Chairs

From: Wilma Turcotte, Diocesan Education and Health Chair

CC: Diocesan Executive, Provincial Education and Health Chair

"During this season of Lent, we pray against evil of corruption in our world"

Pope Francis

Lent is only a few days away and I wish you a holy and prayerful six weeks.

Homeless Initiative

February 24, 2018 is the date for **The Coldest Night of the Year** initiative. The Coldest Night of the Year is a fun, family-friendly fundraiser that raises money for local charities, serving hungry, homeless and hurting families and takes place over 120 communities across Canada. There are 2, 5 or 10 km. walks for registered participants. For more information go to cnoy.org to find out about the walk in your area, which local charity you would be supporting and how to sign up as a council or individual to participate.

Health

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care:

Anne Madden, Ontario Provincial President, sent the following:

"This year all councils have been asked by national to organize their own 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care. I am suggesting we keep **May 4th** as the day we all reserve. We are asking to follow this message from the previous year as a guide - all League members find some way to support this day of prayer. The prayer can take place within a parish church, a house of worship, a home or elsewhere. Participation may include a large congregation, a few friends or solitary prayer at home. It is recommended that parishioners, members of neighbouring churches and other faith groups be invited to participate. Where possible, it would be ideal to include Knights of Columbus and any ecclesial movements or associations in your parish or diocese. The twelve hours can be designed around local schedules."

Suggestions for planning parish council events:

- Extend your invitation to neighbouring faith communities, family and friends.
- Plan your event in concert with National Hospice and Palliative Care Week – May 6 – 12, 2018. For more information go to Canadian Hospice Palliative Association website – www.cphc.net. Supply brochures on palliative care facilities and services.
- Encourage participation in the 12 Hours of Prayer petition.
- Offer refreshments and a time for fellowship and information sharing.
- Welcome and support those who wish to share their own experiences of giving and receiving care.
- Take a free will offering for a local palliative care facility.
- Discuss ways that your council can assist in this important work.

Please forward any prayers, prayer services or spiritual presentations your council has composed for this event to me, so I can forward to the Provincial Education and Health Chairperson.

Mental Health

On the National website (cwl.ca) is Communique 7 from Fran Lucas, National Education and Health Chair. In the communique there are “7 C’s Model of Resilience” that can help children and teens develop resilience. Resilience is one of the key words used in the promotion of mental health today. The 7 C’s are confidence, competence, connection, character, contribution, coping and control. Share this information with your council.

Mental health will be the focus of the National Chair, Fran Lucas. Watch for more information in the coming months on this important issue.

Opioid Crisis

The opioid crisis has devastated many communities across Canada. There is no single solution to addressing the opioid crisis, but important steps have been taken in addressing long term solutions. To find out more visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada>. Please pray for the many people and families that are living with this crisis as well as the health care providers that are dealing with the addicted individuals on a day-to-day basis.

National Bursary Fund

The National Bursary Fund aids members perusing education in areas of spiritual growth, adult faith formation, youth ministry, ministry to patients in palliative care, ministry to shut ins, parliamentary procedure or literacy tutoring. Council and members are asked to donate funds to this bursary. Educating our members in these various areas help us all.

Resolutions make a difference! In December, our Resolution ON17.3 **Inclusion of Registered Nurses in Provincial Bill 163, Supporting Ontario’s First Responders Act 2016** was passed.

Education

The website www.togetherinfaith.ca promotes Catholic Education in Ontario. The goal is to build a vibrant online community of supporters of Catholic education, and share the stories of the exceptional students, teachers and other members of our faith community who are demonstrating excellence in our school system. This can be a wonderful resource to exchange ideas – check it out.

The group One Public Education Now plans to file a lawsuit to ensure the province's Catholic school boards no longer receive public funds, based on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As of October 19, 2017, the group had raised \$13,000.00 but need \$100,000.00 to start the proceedings. They are hoping to raise this amount before the next provincial election. Do you know where the candidates in your riding stands on Catholic Education? Find out and be sure to let them know how important this issue is to you. Without voicing our support of Catholic Education, it can be lost in this province as has happened in Quebec and Newfoundland. Check the Auditor General 2017 Annual Report for further information.

Respectfully submitted.