



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

**Christian Family Life**

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

**Directive #4**

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**Date:** February 11, 2017

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

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

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

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We have now entered a new year and with it new challenges to overcome. Last year the focus was on legalization of euthanasia. Despite our best efforts as catholic women, euthanasia was legalized. However, this is not the end of the issue. Because it is legal does not dictate our moral choices. Everyone has a choice. Our new challenge as Catholics is to provide people with options and understanding that lead to better moral choices.

Pope Francis is saying we should love the sinner but hate the sin. Rather than criticize and condemn, and antagonize people for their sins, we need to learn to understand the struggles they face and how those struggles can be overcome. This approach applies to gender issues and all family-related moral issues that we face in our society today including divorce, abortion and euthanasia. We can do this one person at a time. Give your time and non-judgmental support to a family member or friend who is in need of a listening ear. Be a light of Christ in your actions and who you are.

In Ontario, we have a Family Day on February 20<sup>th</sup>. It is a provincial holiday and it is an opportunity for families to spend time together. If you have the day off from work take the time and enjoy some family time. Go to Mass, play outside, go to the movies, use the extra day with your family.

Pope Francis says we cannot simply stand by, something must change. Our families need to become more evident signs of God's patient and merciful love, not only for our children and elders, but to all those in need. By simple gestures, simple prayerful actions which honor Christ we can bring the power of his love into the world and truly change it. (November 28, 2015)

Be a light of Christ in the World.

Respectfully submitted.