



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 #1

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Date: October 28, 2017

To: Parish Council Christian Family Life Chairs

From: Colleen Hill, Diocesan Christian Family Life Chair

CC: Diocesan Executive, Provincial Christian Family Life Chair

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands; you shall be happy, and it will go well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots round your table. (Ps 128: 1-4)

In response to God's call (and indeed prompting from the Holy Spirit), I accepted the appointment from our Diocesan President as Christian Family Life Chair. Having held various positions (Community Life, Recording Secretary, 1st V.P., President) on parish executives in both Toronto and Picton, it is an honour to be of service in this current role. To the Christian Family Life Chairs at the parish level, please connect with me regarding any ideas, comments or assistance so that together, we can raise awareness of all aspects of this very encompassing committee.

SANCTITY OF LIFE

Thank-you to Members who came out to cities & towns of our Diocese on October 1st to witness to the unborn via the 'Chain of Life'. *If they can't speak for themselves, who will?*

I'd like to share an activity brought to my attention via a friend's Council in London Diocese – perhaps you'd consider this for your own Council? It is a Spiritual Adoption - free prayer cards (S&H extra) were ordered from *St. Joseph's Workers for Life and Family* in Ottawa www.sjw.ca Each day for nine months, Members prayed this short prayer to spare the life of an unborn baby; this was followed by a 'baby shower', i.e. gifts for a newborn were gathered at a celebration and were delivered to the local Birthright office (with their prior awareness).

At the other end of the spectrum, note that the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (membership only \$25.00!) reports that both the American College of Physicians AND the American Psychiatry Association have soundly rejected the legalization of euthanasia. Since this practice has been legalized in Canada unfortunately, it's now more urgent than ever to enhance our country's palliative care efforts – letters to our legislators to make palliative care *universally available*, should be an ongoing effort.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

In August 2018, Pope Francis will visit Ireland to celebrate the 9th **World Meeting of Families**. See: <http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/About/About-WMOF2018> . The last Meeting was in Philadelphia in 2015. Organizers have developed an extensive website. Here you will find a link to 'AMORIS', a catechetical resource for Catholic families, with ideas, activities and interactive programs. This stems from the encyclical *Amoris Laetitia – The Joy of Love*, by Pope Francis. Some of these resources are only available in Ireland, but if you read about them, many can easily be adapted for use here - they really are universal. One example is a resource for what organizers call 'Popular Moments' in family life – Valentine's Day. The activity encourages people to think "outside the chocolate box" e.g. giving tokens of spending time with a loved one. There are also 'Popular Moments' in sacramental life too. Consider some of these ideas as a CWL initiative or have a discussion with your Spiritual Advisor to bring it to the parish as a whole. Once on this site, it is hard not to be enthusiastic about the preparations and work being done towards a successful 'meeting' next August.

We are all asked to 'evangelize' and to accompany or minister to others – focusing in this way on the family would have a huge impact.

Official Family Prayer for the World Meeting of Families 2018

God, our Father,

We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,

One family, in the Spirit of your love.

Bless us with the joy of love.

Make us patient and kind,

gentle and generous,

welcoming to those in need.

Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.

Protect all families with your loving care,

Especially those for whom we now pray:

[We pause and remember family members and others by name].

Increase our faith,

Strengthen our hope,

Keep us safe in your love,

Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share

This we ask, through Christ our Lord, AMEN.

Respectfully submitted.