



**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 #2**

**Pages: 2**

**Date:** February 10, 2018

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

**From:** Colleen Hill, Diocesan Christian Family Life Chair

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

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***"How wonderful it would be if the growth of scientific and technological innovation would come along with more equality and social inclusion. How wonderful it would be while discovering far away planets, to rediscover the needs of the brothers and sisters orbiting around us!"***

Excerpt from Pope Francis' TED Talk in Vancouver, April 2017, via the Vatican:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/pope\\_francis\\_why\\_the\\_only\\_future\\_worth\\_building\\_includes\\_everyone?language=en#t-8509](https://www.ted.com/talks/pope_francis_why_the_only_future_worth_building_includes_everyone?language=en#t-8509)

My best wishes to you for 2018. May it be a year to recognize, reflect upon, reach out to, and be thankful for all who "orbit around us".

**Sanctity of Life/Ministry to the Disabled**

It remains to be seen how our current society will be remembered – expressions like 'consumerism', 'material world', and 'self-absorbed' are often heard. The very concept of 'selfies' is a bit telling. Pope Francis reminds us that every living creature has value and should be recognized and protected. He speaks to this in the quote above and in his encyclical *Laudato Si* (on Care for our Common Home) and his exhortation 'The Joy of Love'.

In the euthanasia debate, the **disabled** are often considered less than worthy of life. Canada's **Euthanasia Prevention Coalition** (<http://www.epcc.ca>) works tirelessly to educate us regarding the dangers of this practice, particularly towards the vulnerable and the disabled. Most recently, The Netherlands, which has had legalized euthanasia for many years, has initiated means to include people with disabilities, even children, in the practice of euthanasia. Can Canada be far behind? There is currently here, a request to extend the law to 'mature minors' and those with psychological conditions.

I urge you to:

- educate yourselves on this matter
- write your personal *informed* opinions to your MP  
(<http://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>)
- watch the video, '*The Euthanasia Deception*', (cost is \$30.00 via EPC)
- join the EPC; they need \$30,000 to complete production of their newest documentary '*Fatal Flaws*'
- check out the Compassionate Community Care Service (1-855-675-8749) that *offers advice, help and support regarding euthanasia, assisted-suicide and end-of-life treatment issues*
- please pray for the disabled and vulnerable, that they be valued and celebrated!

"There but for the grace of God" is an expression one might easily use to bring home the message of our own vulnerability. With Canada's aging population and high cost of hospital care, many are looking for ways to cut costs for our society – and vulnerable, disabled people will be in the crossfire.

Ladies, it is important to continue letter-writing regarding our hopes for better access to palliative care across our country AND that palliative and Home Care be included rights within the Canada Health Act. Canadians must have options other than euthanasia. People needing end-of-life care and their families need our compassion and our support.

Respectfully submitted.

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\* Note: The subject of **TED** Talks refers to **Technology, Education and Design**. Many individuals who have presented are world-renowned, from all walks of life and their views are highly valued. It took organizers one year to arrange for Pope Francis to offer his personal TED Talk. I think it was worth the wait! Our Pope is a man of today, using all forms of dialogue to send his message of God's love to the world.