



**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 #3

Pages: 2

Date: October 20, 2018

To: Parish Council Christian Family Life Chairs

From: Colleen Hill, Diocesan Christian Family Life Chair

CC: Diocesan Executive, Provincial Christian Family Life Chair

Attachments: #1: Petition of One Million
#2: Petition Signature Page

*"May the eternal truth be always in our hearts
That the God Who breathed this world into being,
Placed stars into the heavens, and designed a butterfly's wing,
Is the God who entrusted His life to the care of **ordinary people** and became vulnerable
that we might know how strong is the power of Love."*

... prayer by Patricia Rivest (2012), Spiritual Development Chair, OPC

Kingston CWL is gifted with some new parish Presidents, so I'll re-introduce myself; Picton is my home with David, my husband of 49 years. We migrated to this paradise from Toronto where our two sons and grandchildren live. Retired life is good – how did I ever have time for a paid job? My work with the League is joyful and fulfilling. I have learned so much from my League sisters who never cease to amaze me with their energy and mostly their love!

Now, as Pat's prayer (*above*) states, we 'ordinary people' are vital to God's plan...let's focus on a couple of areas of our mandate here:

Sanctity of Life:

1. With the permission and assistance of your Spiritual Director/Pastor, please consider a parish project – a Petition Sunday/Weekend called Petition of One Million (People), against abortion. All the tools can be found at the following website:

<http://petitionofonemillion.ca>.

There is the Petition itself to download, a sample 'Parish Talk', the Signature pages and guidelines. This petition will be delivered to our federal legislators in April 2019. For those of you without access to a computer, the attachments will be useful.

2. Another knock-out headline from the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) reads:
Canadian and Dutch Medical Associations pressure World Medical Association to

change policy opposing euthanasia. I, as a Canadian Catholic woman, find the push by our own CMA an horrific and reprehensible action!

The [WMJ report](#) on the Brazil Symposium (March 2017) stated that: *'The sick at the end of life need a helping hand not to precipitate their death, nor to prolong their agony with the therapeutic obstinacy, but to be with them and relieve their suffering with palliative care while their death arrives'.*

Happily, the EPC reports that in their deliberations in early October, in Reykjavik Iceland, the CMA withdrew their resolution as it was not supported. Possible **ACTION** from our perspective could be prayers, prayers and more prayers! As well, perhaps you, as an individual CWL member would consider writing a letter to the CMA stating your views on this matter as they pertain to our Catholic values.

Vocations:

This is a difficult time in our church history for our clergy and for the entire Body of Christ. I recently learned of an Association called **Worldpriest**. Marion Mulhall of Wicklow Ireland is the founder and CEO of Worldpriest, a lay organization of professional communications people formed in 2003 to 'Affirm the dignity, beauty and gift of the Priesthood of Jesus Christ to Humanity'. (worldpriest.com)

Without priests there can be no Eucharist and without the Eucharist no church. Their website asks *"Who is there to listen to those of us who have no one? To whom do we turn to when the world has turned its back on us? Day and night, Priests are called to listen at times of joy but also at times of great pain. The sick, the marginalized, the lonely and the outcast turn to priests to be heard and it is through his priests that Christ is present among his people. Their work is largely unrecognized and their contribution to society is often overlooked. They ask for no reward beyond doing God's work."* **ACTION:** Be a daily prayer friend to a priest in thanksgiving for his priesthood as you reflect and pray for him/them.

A Prayer for Priests (USCCB.org)

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests.
Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.

Help our priests to be strong in their vocation.
Set their souls on fire with love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.

Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.
Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.

Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

St. Jean Vianney (Patron Saint of Parish Priests), pray for us.

Respectfully submitted.

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESIDENTS OF CANADA, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following:

WHEREAS, Parliament's most basic duty is to protect innocent human life and scientific evidence puts it beyond doubt that each new human life has an identifiable biological beginning.

AND WHEREAS the abortion law of 1969 withdrew legal protection from children before birth that they had previously enjoyed,

AND WHEREAS since that time there has been no law at all protecting the lives of children before birth in Canada.

THEREFORE, we the undersigned, call upon the House of Commons to enact legislation granting full legal protection to the child not yet born from the beginning of his/her biological development as a human being - the same protection granted to any other human being. We also urge the House of Commons to show leadership in fostering a life sustaining society.

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

THEREFORE, we the undersigned, call upon the House of Commons to enact legislation granting full legal protection to the child not yet born from the beginning of his/her biological development as a human being – the same protection granted to any other human being. We also urge the House of Commons to show leadership in fostering a life sustaining society.

First and Last Name <i>Please print</i>	Full Mailing Address <i>Including postal code</i>	Riding	E-mail Address	Phone Number	Signature