

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

Summary of ORAL Report given at:

**FALL PRESIDENTS' MEETING OCTOBER 22, 2022**

Name: Bernadette Veitch

Christian Family Life Chair

DATE: **October 22, 2022**

What is Christian Family Life? Is it all sunshine and roses?

Even the Holy Family had problems.

How can we help?

Topic: Annulments

Resource from Catholic Women's League published 2019

My Convenorship is Christian Family Life. While we all strive to have a good practicing Catholic family, we all know people, who's children, while brought up in the church no longer attend, were married outside the church, perhaps in our own family.

A flourishing Christian family does not have to be one with no trials or serious difficulties. In fact, many trials—financial failure, personal tragedies, accidents, sickness, physical or mental disabilities—are not only compatible with a flourishing Christian family, but they also often cause the character of a strong Christian family to be brought to light.

Even the Holy Family experienced hardship, such as when St. Joseph did not understand how his wife was with child (Matt. 1:19) or when Jesus' parents did not understand why he had left without telling them (Luke 2:48). These misunderstandings developed great trust and the love that "believes all things" (1 Cor. 13:7).

It is not our job to judge them, but to support them in their journey.

The Catholic Women's League has many resources to help your Council Make a Difference in someone's life.

I draw your attention to the Annulments Today Merciful and Just, published in January, 2019. It explains the process and more streamlined procedure for annulments.

"The annulment process offers a good balance between the church's mission to uphold the truth about marriage, while extending mercy and compassion for the imperfect way that people sometimes enter into commitments."