



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

Christian Family Life

*Catholic and Living It!
Go Make a Difference
Reconnect*

Directive #4
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To: Parish Christian Family Life Chair
From: Bernadette Veitch, Diocesan Christian Family Life Chair
CC: Parish Presidents, Diocesan Executive, Provincial Christian Family Life Chair

"The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved.
Mother Theresa

What is the role of the Christian Family in the Church?

Their goal as a family is to 1) honor God, 2) edify the church and 3) promote Christian values in their respective stations of society. All this stems from the moral and spiritual values practiced in the home and functioning to honor Christ Jesus.

With eroding services to Seniors, Disabled People, Youth and Families, it sometimes seems that our Christian values are not being met, and that it is an uphill battle ensure in society that they are met. Did you know that the CCCB has a Standing Committee for Family and Life, which is an advisory body established within the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) by a resolution of the 2020 Plenary Assembly of Bishops, the purpose of which is to assist the Conference as a whole in:

- *responding to the pastoral needs of married couples and families (children, parents, grandparents and extended family) and assisting them to affirm and strengthen the domestic church in every household;
- *proclaiming the Christian teachings on marriage and the family;
- *promoting the dignity and sacredness of human life at all stages of life, from conception to natural death;
- *responding to new questions raised by contemporary ethical debates (e.g., MAiD, palliative care, gender issues); and
- *encouraging the ethical and moral development of new biotechnologies with respect to life and what it means to be human.

In the execution of its mandate, the Standing Committee is supported by the Office for Family and Life, which is at the overall service of the CCCB and collaborates with the other CCCB offices and structures.

We can look to them to help us provide meaningful ways in which to ensure that our Christian values are being met in health care, new legislation affecting families and youth, etc. The CCCB website cccb.ca has any resources that identify government legislation on life issues and responses from the church.

In this Diocese alone, some Nursing Homes do not have Masses scheduled, some only once every couple of months, due to lack of Priests who are able to service them.

We should continue to pray for our priests and to increase their numbers:

Heavenly Father, grant that our priests be strengthened and healed by the power of the Eucharist they celebrate. May the Word they proclaim give them courage and wisdom. We pray that all those whom they seek to serve May see in them the love and care of Jesus, Our Eternal High Priest, who is Lord for ever and ever.

We should encourage councils to determine if there are any special requests to support vocations.

Continue to write to your Members of Parliament on the Sanctity of Life and End of Life Issues. If we are complacent, changes in our society may be made that may not be for the better of all people.

The CWL has a brochure entitled Annulments Today, Merciful and Just, written in plain language and is available from the national website (cwl.ca) for our Separated and Divorce members who may be seeking an Annulment.

Respectfully submitted.