



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

Diocesan Christian Family Life Chair

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

Directive #2

Pages: 2

Date: February 11, 2023

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

Attachments: Gospel of Life, Advanced Health Care Directive

"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

Pope Francis

Blessings to all at the start of this New Year. As we all know Christian Family Life is "to exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life and encompasses the following: Marriage and Family, Sanctity of Life, Ministry to: youth, widowed, disabled, separated, seniors and divorced and vocations.

My directive will be this time on the sanctity of life, which encompasses the preborn to those at the end of life.

March 25 marks the anniversary of the papal encyclical [*Evangelium vitae*](#) (*The Gospel of Life*). Written by Pope St. John Paul II in 1995, this document on the value and inviolability of every human life remains an indispensable source of truth for all people. It reaffirms the "greatness and the inestimable value of human life" (EV 2) and addresses present-day legal, ethical, and moral threats to life, including abortion, artificial reproduction techniques, contraception, capital punishment, euthanasia, sterilization, and suicide.

There is so many places we can "Go Make a Difference" on this topic, volunteering at food banks to help serve the poor, helping Birth Right man their offices, offering support to pregnant women, lending our voices to petitions regarding important topics.

I would like to draw your attention to an important topic brought forward by Jeff Gunnarson, National President Campaign Life Coalition, in which he states that recently in Canada a 19 year old woman died of septic shock after taking the "morning after pill" she and her preborn baby lost their lives in a tragedy that deeply affects everyone involved, including her family, friends and community. In the last few years in Canada this is the second woman to die. In the United States, some universities have started selling the "morning after pill" in vending machines on campus. Campaign Life Coalition has launched a national petition demanding that Health Canada ban this deadly pill. If you would like to call on Health Canada to act to protect maternal and infant health and prevent further tragedies, the petition can be found on clife.ca/banabortionpill

A lot of us are now seniors, and have seniors in our lives who we love and care for. I am including information on a Faith Based Advanced Health Care Directive. Before our loved ones are forced to make decisions in a panic, it is suggested that we have a meaningful discussion with our loved ones on how we want our health care decisions to be made. Making an Advance Health Care Directive gives you an opportunity to ensure the values, customs, and moral teachings of your faith will direct treatment decisions to be made when you lack capacity. Catholics, more broadly, believe that life is a gift of a loving God and that being disabled or ill does not diminish human dignity or the value of life. In light of this, we understand that life should never be terminated through euthanasia or assisted suicide. See attachment 2 pamphlet for more information.

Please remember our Priest in your prayers, who help guide us with our troubling life decisions, as well as share in the joys in our families.

Prayer for the Sanctification of the Clergy

Divine Saviour, Jesus Christ, who has entrusted the whole work of your redemption, the welfare and salvation of the world, to priests as your representatives, I offer you through the hands of your most Holy Mother Mary, this present day, whole and entire, with all its prayers, works, and sacrifices, its joys and sorrows, for the sanctification of your priests, and for all those preparing for the priesthood. Give us truly holy priests, inflamed with the fire of your divine love, who seek nothing but your greater glory, and the salvation of souls. And you, Mary, good Mother of priests, protect all priests from dangers to their holy vocation, and with the loving hand of a mother, lead back to the Good Shepherd those unfortunate priests who, unfaithful to their exalted vocation, have gone astray. Amen.

Respectfully submitted.