



Directive # 2

Christian Family Life Standing Committee

September 28, 2017

From: Linda Squarzolo Provincial 1st Vice President/Christian Family Life Chair

To: Diocesan Christian Family Life Chairs

CC: Archbishop O'Brien, Provincial Executive, Diocesan Presidents,
National Christian Family Life Chair, sub-committee members

Dear CWL Members,

Fall is here both on the calendar and in the weather we are experiencing. It is remarkable to see the leaves changing colour and the spectacular scenery all around us. Fall is also the time when we put our energy into some League projects

40 Days of Life Campaign

The Christian Family Life Committee is responsible for many areas and one of them is the sanctity of life. The 40 Days of Life Campaign began on September 27th and will continue until November 5th.

Tens of thousands of people around the world will be gathering in front of abortion facilities for 40 consecutive days to pray for an end to abortions. The volunteers also fast during the 40 days in reparation for the sin of abortion and to ask God to heal our land.

Prayer volunteers will prayerfully gather in front of these abortion facilities on public property to pray for babies to be saved from death, for the closure of the abortion facility, for the conversion and healing of the mothers who go through the procedure, for the conversion of the staff and doctors and for the healing of those affected by abortion.

If you, personally, or your council is able to participate in this peaceful and prayerful effort you can go to the website: <http://40daysforlife.com> to find out where this is taking place. Even if you are not able to participate publicly, everyone can offer private prayer and fasting.

National Directive #5

Please go to the national website at cwl.ca the recent directive issued by our national counterpart Doreen Gowans.

Homelessness

Over the next two years the CWL in Ontario will be addressing the issue of homelessness. This is an issue of concern, not only in large cities, but even in smaller centres. Here is some information provided by the Canadian Homelessness Research Network and the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. They reported:

- 30,000 Canadians are homeless every night
- 200,000 Canadians can experience homelessness in any given year
- 150,000 Canadians a year use a homeless shelter at some point
- At least 50,000 Canadians are part of the "hidden" homeless on any given night, staying with friends or relatives on a temporary basis

They also identified who are the homeless. The over-represented groups are:

- Single adult males, aged 25 – 55, account for 47.5%
- Youth, aged 16 – 24, account for 20%, but 25 – 40% of those are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual or transgender
- Aboriginal people are over-represented, especially in the north and west

The factors which push people into homelessness may be job loss, mental illness, addictions, family violence/abuse and extreme poverty. Social causes are the decline in affordable housing, both owned or rental and the reduction in social benefits.

What can the League members do?

- When councils are donating funds, direct them to soup kitchens, food banks and homeless shelters
- Offer to volunteer time to soup kitchens and food banks
- Food banks often have food or monetary donations, but will also provide toiletries, cleaning products and paper products to clients, if they are available
- Assist these agencies when they are holding fund-raising events
- Volunteer with organizations which assist low-income people to provide housing, such as Habitat for Humanity
- Provide programs to low-income individuals for budgeting money, cooking lessons and other useful skills
- Lobby all levels of government to encourage the construction of affordable housing
- What other initiatives can you suggest?

I encourage you to do whatever you are able to do.

I look forward to receiving copies of the directives you send and hear what is happening in your area.

God bless you all.

Linda

