



Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Spiritual Development Standing Committee

Directive #2

November 25, 2019

To: Diocesan Spiritual Development Standing Chairpersons

From: Emma Rose Rayburn, Ontario Provincial Council, Spiritual Development Chairperson

Sub-Committee: Lisa Fillingham, Anne Vincelli

cc: Archbishop Prendergast, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairpersons, Sub-committee chairperson

“Jesus teaches. Go out. Go out and share your testimony, go out and interact with your brothers, go out and share, go out and ask.

“Become the Word in body as well as spirit.” Pope Francis I

Though not a pleasant topic it is a very important matter that is need of our prayers. Please find an excerpt from our National Spiritual Development Chair Shari Guinta's Communiqué 03.

Protecting Minors

Last year, National President Anne-Marie Gorman asked national executive/board members to read the first 76 pages of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' (CCCCB) document, Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation, and Transformation. An ad hoc committee was formed to study the document and make recommendations as to possible initiatives for councils to participate in. I reported to the board recommendations from the committee at the pre-convention meeting. There were initiatives for the board, and provincial, diocesan and parish councils. Per one of the ad hoc committee's suggestions, a letter was sent from the national convention supporting the CCCC for the document and offering the League's assistance in initiatives. A workshop on this issue is also being developed and is to be presented to the board in winter 2020.

Encourage parish councils to read the document and participate in some of the following: a) Have a guest speaker knowledgeable about the issue. Check with the local diocesan office for suggestions of those qualified to speak/present on the issue. b) Develop a prayer for the victims and abusers. c) Talk to pastors and spiritual advisors about any program that might welcome victims who left the church and may venture back.

I've attached links from the Canadian Conference of the Catholic Bishops;

<https://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/members/annual-plenary-assemblies/295-plenary-assembly-2018/4997-canadas-bishops-discuss-commitment-to-the-protection-of-minors>

http://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/CCCB_Statement_Implementation_of_Protection_of_Minors_Guidelines_Update_November2019_EN_FINAL.pdf

At our Fall Provincial Meeting we were fortunate to have our Spiritual Advisor Archbishop Prendergast speak to us on the topic of Abuse and the Church which was very informative and honest. I felt it very helpful, allowing us to ask questions with any doubts or struggles we may be having. He assured us that the Bishops of Canada are diligently working on rectifying this issue and that together with prayer we can help. Madame President Colleen has passed along this prayer that the National Council has approved and it shall be added to The League Prayer book, in the meantime here is a copy we can print out, share and pray.

Reconciliation Prayer:

**With sincerity and humility we pray for those who have been abused;
Physically, mentally, emotionally, sexually
We pray for a restoration of trust and respect and fading of painful memories.
We pray for a safe environment, support for all victims and a voice for their suffering.
May the Lord comfort them and restore them from pain to hope to reconciliation.
May all be healed and comforted with support from their families, the church,
community and the Lord Our God who hears all cries for help.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Your sister in prayer,

Emma Rose Rayburn



**“If we have no peace,
it is because we have forgotten
that we belong to each other.”**

- Mother Teresa