



**Ontario Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Christian Family Life Standing Committee**



Directive #4

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Date: April 6, 2020

To: Diocesan Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Colleen Martin, OPC, Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairperson
cc: Ontario Provincial Officers, Diocesan Presidents, Archbishop Prendergast, and National Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairperson
Sub-Committee: Pat Weller and Shelley Tamas
Enclosure: Giving Hope and Cardinal Collins letters

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

THEME - The national theme is *Care for Our Common Home*. Our Provincial President has added to this the topic of *loneliness*.

Loneliness Toolkit - Update

The toolkit components are completed. Once combined into one document, it will be shared with the Ontario President and Spiritual Advisor for review. Once the toolkit is approved, a link to it will be posted on the website for download. If your councils use any of the activities please report them back to me so I can include these in my next report to the Ontario Provincial Council.

Personal Testament – By Pat Weller, Life Member, Pembroke

My youngest son is at university in Ottawa and I make the trip in to the city to bring him home for an occasional weekend and at holidays. There are often homeless people at the end of the ramps as we come off the Queensway or on nearby streets.

The article by Doreen Gowans in the Winter 2020 edition of *The Canadian League*, "Who Do You Choose To Communicate With?" struck a chord with my experience on one of my trips to Ottawa. For a fleeting moment, my eyes connected with a woman on the side of the street. I didn't have the chance to do any more than make that one little connection except to write this poem about my experience.

On Catherine Street by Bronson

Our eyes meet
She smiles
A connection
Did I smile back?
Did I at least make that one
gesture
that might offer hope,
a sense of humanity.

Three lanes over in traffic
she on the side of the street.
I want to open my window
reach out and touch
her hand, her cheek.
What could I give to make a difference
Other than knowing she is loved.

Current Issues

Youth

The young people of our parishes are not receiving instruction in children's liturgy due to social distancing. Are there activities we can suggest for families through our parish websites? I watch a live stream mass on Sundays from a parish in Thunder Bay where I live. The priest always gives suggestions for the children. For Holy Thursday he suggested baking and sharing the results together. For Good Friday, he suggested turning off the electronics and sharing some quiet music, prayer and discuss what Jesus did for all of us by dying on the cross.

Sanctity of Life

National office received a communication from Aid to Women. This is an organization serving the greater Toronto area and beyond since 1984. They are committed to educating women to grow and make healthy, life-affirming decisions by providing support during pregnancy and after delivery. The organization also provides post-abortion recovery and support. Information regarding their art auction fundraiser is attached along with a support letter from Cardinal Collins for the organization's work. It would be great if some families could participate by encouraging and submitting their children's art.

Loneliness and Social Distancing

With all of us facing an unknown timeline for social distancing, how can we address loneliness from a minimum of 6 feet:

1. Reach out to a member you know lives alone and has no transportation to see if you could drop off groceries for them when you get yours or perhaps mail letters or bill payments for them.
2. Arrange to drop by the home of a member who lives alone and talk to them from a lawnchair 6 feet from an open window or door?
3. Make some phone calls to chat.
4. Write some old fashioned letters, or fill out thinking of you cards and mail them off.
5. If you know a group of ladies on Facebook, connect using group chat in messenger.

If you have other ideas, share them with me and I can pass them on in a future directive.

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

EXPLORE CORNER



Coping with Loneliness

<https://cmha.bc.ca/documents/coping-with-loneliness/>

Remember to refer, from time to time, to the Executive Handbook on the National website here....

<https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/606-Executive-Handbook-2014.pdf>

Care for Our Common Home <https://www.devp.org/en/education/fall2019/materials>

Submitted By *Colleen Martin* Colleen Martin, Chair, CFL Standing Committee