

# **Convention Report 2019**

## **Christian Family Life**

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**Ecology – The relationship of living things to one another and their environment, or the study of such relationships.**

Living things are either plant or animal and are interdependent. Whether they are part of a forest, grassland, tundra or desert all living things have important roles to play in their ecosystem. Plants are producers. By taking energy from the sun and nutrients and water from the ground, plants grow, producing flowers, seeds and berries. Plants need water, nutrients, air, heat and space in order to grow. If any of those necessities is lacking, they become stressed and fail to thrive. Animals are consumers and depend on plants for survival. All animals, insects and micro-organisms are responsible for bringing out nutrients, helping with decomposition, releasing carbon and nitrogen. All living organisms interact with each other and with their environment and they depend on each other.

How easy it is to relate “ecology” to the Christian Family Life Committee! We would all agree that human beings have needs, too. Don’t we need water, food, a comfortable temperature, shelter and protection from our enemies? If some of these essentials are lacking, don’t we also feel stressed and fail to thrive? Maybe we can coin a new term, by calling this “*HUMAN ECOLOGY*”???

In “Human Ecology” it could be said that all humans are interdependent. Society must offer support to the ones who are in need, stressed and failing to thrive. Who would these people be? The divorced, separated, widowed, dying, youth, the young woman with an unwanted pregnancy, the homeless. As Christians, as a society, what is being offered to those who are in need?

A few weeks ago, my family suffered from a terrible event. Our son Michael and his three children lost their home and most of their possessions in a fire. It started in a backyard shed, spread to the wooden fence and then to his house and his neighbour’s. Everyone escaped safely, but his house and the contents were a total loss and the neighbour’s house severely damaged. Insurance will replace his material losses but the support, with hugs, shared tears, prayers and the presence of people who cared, made a huge difference in healing the emotional wounds. We will be forever grateful to the firefighters, family, friends, co-workers and strangers who helped them.

The Christian Family Life Committee focuses on respect for human life and the essential role of the family. Did you know that since Medical Assistance in Dying was legalized in 2016, over 4000 people have chosen to end their lives? Continued efforts must be made to provide palliative care to those who require it. To reduce the number of abortions in our country, spiritual and practical assistance is needed for young mothers and continue to make politicians aware of pro-life views.

Remember the children's entertainer, Mr. Rogers? He said, "We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say it's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem. Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."