



Ontario Provincial Council The Catholic Women's League of Canada Resolutions Standing Committee



Care for our Common Home

Directive #5

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September 7, 2020

To: Diocesan Resolutions Chairpersons
From: Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Provincial Council Resolutions Chair
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Ontario Provincial Council Executive, National Resolutions Committee Chairperson

All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.

St. Francis of Assisi

2020 will be a year that we will all remember—each of us for our own reasons. The COVID 19 pandemic has made each of us experience our provincial theme of loneliness in different ways. We have also watched as a society, the real gaps for assistance and/or care for our vulnerable and marginalized. Many members took time to write to their local MPP, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Long-Term Care about the plight of our seniors in our long-term care facilities. Let us continue to keep our focus on this issue to make sure that real change happens.

The federal government is looking to make changes to the assisted suicide legislation. Attached is a sample letter that members can use to let the government know our opposition to the proposed changes. Members can use one, some or all of the bullet points in the sample letter. Be sure to send a copy of your letter to the opposition critics too as we could be having an election as we have a minority government. The link to view the town hall on assisted suicide is <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/town-hall-assisted-dying-maid-legislation-1.5491824>.

As we move forward and are hopeful that we will have conventions in 2021, another attachment indicates the dates to remember for the resolution process. Remember resolution topics that were submitted for 2020 will be required to complete the process in order to be brought forward. All resolutions will be using the new format and there will no longer be any “whereas” clauses. They will become a part of your brief. Use your notes and guide from the resolutions workshop held in Toronto in February 2020.

There are many other issues/concerns that have come to light during this pandemic. Consider creating a resolution on an issue that has touched a member and your parish council feels strongly about. While it may be difficult to have an in-person meeting, consider using one of the many creative ways that members are staying in contact with each other.

In this season of Fall, we are experiencing many changes—children returning to school, cooler weather, harvesting of crops, and leaves changing colours. It can also be a time our members can reflect on the pandemic and what changes should be implemented to keep us all as safe and healthy as possible. What cracks in our society need to be addressed? What do we need to bring forward to our government? While it

may be difficult to have an in-person meeting, consider using one of the many creative ways that members are staying in contact with each other.

Let us all pray that we will not experience a second wave and keep our children safe as they start the school year. Pope Francis said “the rosary is spiritual medicine”, let us use it for healing.

Blessings and hugs,

Wilma



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