



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



Directive #7

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Enclosures (1)

Date: September 20, 2021

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: Updated Diocesan Christian Family Life Chairs Contact List

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ¹If I speak in human and angelic tongues* but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. ²And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

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

Welcome

Please join me in welcoming our new Christian Family Life Chairpersons in Mary Ellen Villeneuve, Alexandria-Cornwall; Lynn Olenik, Hearst-Moosonee; Mary Ann Horne-White, London; and, Lynne Kelly, Pembroke. Unfortunately, both the Timmins and Peterborough Dioceses positions are vacant. I enclose an updated contact list for Christian Family Life Diocesan Chairs and remind you the list must be kept confidential and may only be used for communication related to your diocesan Christian Family Life role. (not enclosed on cc to other individuals)

To learn about myself, please see the bios posted on the provincial website (cwl.on.ca). My sub-committee members are Pat Weller Past-President and Life Member from the Pembroke Diocese, and Shelley Tamas Past-President and Life Member from St. Catherines Diocese.

Sharing our struggles and successes

The response to my last directive's request for interest in gathering was limited. The offer is still open as I have access to a zoom account. If you would like to gather and share with the other Christian Family Life Chairs please respond to my email or give me a call to let me know and I will arrange a time.

Sanctity of Life and Dignity of All Peoples

BILL C-7 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying)

I had requested in my last directive information on any letters written by members in your diocese regarding Bill C-7. I did not hear from anyone so I did not forward any data to the National Chair.

The bill received royal assent and passed into law on March 21, 2021. We must continue to pray for those so lonely and discouraged as to consider medical assistance in dying.

Truth and Reconciliation – Residential Schools in Canada

Many individuals in Canada are suffering as a result of the residential schools in Canada. Although the very basis of government policy, including residential schools, to irradicate the Indian from the children was wrong, the intentions of many working at the schools were not.

As the national representative for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle, mandated to engage Catholic faithful in truth and reconciliation, I have seen first hand the struggle of individuals, from various religious communities, in their struggle to reconcile what they know of their religious order to the implied corruption of the running of residential schools.

It is challenging to put that aside to allow Indigenous peoples to state their truth based on personal and shared experiences. If this challenge is met with love from all parties, our reconciliation journey will move forward; however, love does not dictate correction of personal and shared experiences. It means listening quietly and praying for those suffering to reach the point where their hearts are touched and they recognize not all those involved in residential schools hated their peoples.

Let us pray together to God that through His Grace all will receive the patience and courage required through the Holy Spirit's work in us all, here and now. Amen.

The Ontario Provincial Council has recognized a need to facilitate reconciliation through knowledge, awareness and action. More information will follow after the Fall OPC Meeting at the end of this month.

Suffering and the Pandemic

(Shared by Toronto Arch-Diocesan CFL Chair Iris McNulty)

Lourdes North American Volunteers has now prepared a five- part video series on *Suffering and The Pandemic*. You can access the site by the link in the explore corner below or by: 1. going to YouTube; 2. typing in Lourdes Pandemic Series; 3. scroll to the episode number. Each segment is 30 minutes long. The themes addressed are:

- Episode 1: *Hope in Bereavement*
- Episode 2: *Holy Grieving*

- Episode 3: *Faith Through Tragedy*
- Episode 4: *Restoration and Grace Through Burnout*
- Episode 5: *Healing From Pandemic Suffering*

This is worthwhile information to share with our sisters and others in our parishes.

EXPLORE CORNER



Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf

Truth and Reconciliation Resources – Calgary Diocesan CWL Website

<https://www.calgarycwl.ca/news/754-residential-schools>

Truth and Reconciliation Resources – Toronto Archdiocesan Website

<https://www.archtoronto.org/en/offices-and-ministries/sub-sites/residential-schools/home/resources/>

Lourdes Lessons Pandemic Series

<https://lourdesvolunteers.org/lourdes-lessons-pandemic-series/>

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.caritas.org.au/learn/cst/care-for-our-common-home>

Submitted By **Colleen Martin**

Colleen Martin, Chair, CFL Standing Committee