



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

**CATHOLIC
and LIVING IT!**

Catholic and Living It!

Directive #4

Pages:

February 8, 2023

To: Diocesan Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Betsy Currier, Ontario Provincial Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairperson
cc: CFL Standing Committee Sub-chairpersons Angela Pellarin and Audrey Shelton, OPC Executive, Appointees, Diocesan Presidents and National Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairperson

*He has no hands but our hands to do his work today
He has no feet but our feet to lead others to his side
He has no voice but our voice to tell others how he died
He has no help but our help to lead them to his way
St. Theresa Avila*

MINISTRY TO....

Youth: World Youth Day provides an opportunity for youth to meet with the pope. It will be in Lisbon, Portugal in August. If your parish has a youth group planning to go, please support them as best you can.

Disabled: Bill C-295 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (neglect of vulnerable adults)* has passed first reading. This enactment amends the *Criminal Code* to create an offence for long-term care facilities, their owners and managers to fail to provide necessities of life to residents of the facilities. Please encourage your members to contact their member of parliament and the minister of justice to continue the momentum.

Seniors: During this time of year seniors are especially reluctant to go out. It may be difficulty with snow removal, fear of winter driving, or fear of a slip and fall keeping the senior housebound. A phone call or a ride to church, a grocery store or pharmacy would mean so much.

Widowed: Are there other programs your parish uses for grief counselling that you could share? Would you consider starting a program?

Separated, Divorced: The *Annulments Today, Merciful and Just* brochure is written in plain language and is available from the national website (cwl.ca) for distribution to members and possibly in your parish with the approval of your spiritual advisor.

Vocations: In my previous directive, I introduced the *Faith into Action – Make a Difference* project for 2022 – 2024. I neglected to ask that you let me know what you are doing. Despite my error, I am beginning to hear from councils about their actions to recognize and assist vocations. As your councils begin to plan out their 2023 activities, I do hope that they keep this project in mind. I have attached a "Faith into Action Report Form" (thank you to Mary Capobianco for the template) to simplify the reporting process. Please take a moment to complete this and let me know what's happening.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY

There are many excellent resources on family and marriage available on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops website at cccb.ca.

Monday, February 20th is Family Day. Pope Francis has a mission for Catholic families: "Proclaim the beauty of being family with joy! Proclaim the grace of Christian marriage to children and young people." He invites young families to "be guided by those who know the way," and more established families to "be companions on the journey for others". And for families who have lost the way, he encourages them not to be overcome by sadness, but to "trust in the love that God has placed in you, [and] beseech the Spirit each day to revive it." He said, "Be the seed of a more fraternal world! Be families with big hearts! Be the welcoming face of the Church! And please pray, always pray!"

SANCTITY OF LIFE

At its first reading, February 2, 2023, Bill 39, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying in circumstances where the sole underlying medical condition for the request is a mental illness)* was delayed, until March 17, 2024. Please contact your member of parliament and voice your opinion about this extension to MAiD eligibility.

Members are encouraged to continue to support Euthanasia Prevention Coalition by signing up for news or making donations directly to the organization at epcc.ca.

Christian family life is all about living out our faith and Christian values. February is the month associated with love. Our Catholic faith teaches us that we must love one another as ourselves. Our seven Corporal Works of Mercy tell us how we can do this...feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, give shelter to travelers, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. Let's go make a difference!

May our Lady's love and blessings be with you.

Betsy

Attachments:1