



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



***Catholic and Living It!***

**Directive #6**

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**November 17, 2023**

To: Diocesan Presidents and Secretaries, National Secretary

From: Betsy Currier, Ontario Provincial Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairperson

cc: Most Reverend Bishop Thomas Dowd, OPC Executive and Appointees, National Faith and Service Chairpersons, CFL Standing Committee Sub- Angela Pellarin and Audrey Shelton

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***Christian Family Life Focus Project*** (poster)

The focus of the Christian Family Life "Go Make a Difference! – Faith in Action" project until the end of the term in July is vocations. I'd like to remind you that the Ontario Provincial Council is presenting a spiritual reflection facilitated by spiritual development chairperson Wilma Vanderzaag, co-hosted by our Provincial Spiritual Advisor Most Reverend Bishop Thomas Dowd on December 11 at 7:00 p.m. We will be dedicating this time to pray for our Spiritual advisors, priests and religious. You must register to attend. The link to register is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvdOqurjovGNx1leK4M8Osjnf7cCW4gmuP>

***Sanctity of Life – A look at both ends of the spectrum***

Let's call it like it is – MAiD is a misnomer..... Physicians have been providing medical assistance in dying a comfortable death with dignity for years, *not killing people*. Palliative care facilities, long-term care facilities and funeral homes are not appropriate locations for MAiD. Canada is one of 10 countries world-wide that offer MAiD. We need to advocate for suicide prevention counselling, adequate resources to support illness, and good palliative care.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, abortion continues to kill unborn babies. Over 3 million babies have been killed in Canada since abortion was legalized in 1969.

A movement is growing across North America. Women and men are beginning to speak out about the harmful experience of abortion in their own lives. The

movement is called The Silent No More Awareness Campaign. In the hopes of warning others, they describe the devastating emotional, spiritual and physical suffering which the choice to abort caused in their lives.

Angelina Steenstra, the National Coordinator for Canada as well as the Regional Coordinator for the Province of Ontario says, "Let's realize that there can be *"A Future Without Abortion"* – that years of killing three million babies kills our conscience and leads to a further devaluing of human life."

<https://www.silentnomoreawareness.org/rc/canada.aspx>

"Two life moments are unparalleled in wakening a sense of awe: beholding a birth and standing in a presence of death. The mystery of death is illuminated by analogy to birth.... Whether we hold a newborn infant or touch the hand of a person near death, a fundamentally similar awareness emerges: life is exquisitely valuable. Language stretches to express it. Life belongs in a wholly different genre of value that measurable, material, temporal goods."  
Thomas Aquinas

***Prayer for the Protection of Human Life***

Heavenly Father, Lord and Maker of all that is good, fill our hearts with joy before the wonders of Your creation. Open our eyes to the presence of Your beloved Son Jesus in all we encounter and especially in the weakest and most vulnerable among us. Where we see life threatened, at its beginning or at its end, or by poverty and deprivation, inspire us with love and mercy so that, empowered by Your Holy Spirit, we may work together to defend human dignity. Help us build a culture of life: a culture in which every person is loved and valued as Your child, from conception to natural death, *and in every circumstance of life.* Amen

Mary, Mother of the living, pray for us!

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Advent is a precious time to rest and find peace and it is also a time to repent and remember the gift of salvation. Let's ask the Father to use this time during Advent to leave behind the distress and to fill our life with the hope, peace, joy, and love of this holy season. O come, o come Emmanuel!

Please join the Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council's Advent Spiritual Reflection, *The Season of Hope and Expectation* on Saturday, November 25 at 11:00 at: <https://tinyurl.com/SSMCWLADVENT> no pre-registration required (poster)

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide our work for God and Canada.  
Blessings and hugs,

***Betsy Currier***

OPC Christian Family Life Chairperson

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