



**The Catholic Women's  
League of Canada  
Ontario Provincial Council  
Spiritual Development/Faith Standing Committee**

**CATHOLIC  
and LIVING IT!**

**Directive #5**

**Pages: 1  
Attachments: 1**

**Oct 31, 2023**

To: Diocesan Spiritual Development/Faith Chairs  
From: Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Provincial Council Spiritual Development Chair  
cc: Sub-Committee Chairs, Diocesan Presidents, Ontario Provincial Council Executive,  
National Faith Chairperson

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*Do you suppose that because we cannot hear God that God is silent? God speaks clearly to the heart when we beg God from our hearts to do so.*

St. Theresa of Avila

November is a month of remembering our deceased, from All Saints Day, All Souls Day to Remembrance Day, we remember. It is fitting that this is the month that information regarding our deceased member reporting is being updated. Cathy McKinney, the Keeper of the Book of Life for the Ontario Provincial Council reported that in 2022, the province reported 1123 deceased members. It is hard to fathom that number. Cathy hosted a virtual meeting on September 24, 2023 regarding the reporting of our deceased members. The recording of this meeting along with the forms discussed to assist in reporting are available on the provincial website, [cwl.on.ca](http://cwl.on.ca).

At the Fall Meeting (October 12-14) of the Ontario Provincial Council it was decided that all parish and diocesan councils submit the names of long standing deceased members to be entered in the provincial and diocesan Book of Life even if their dues are not up to date. In most cases these will be members that are in a nursing home or have become shut in and have family members looking after their finances and not aware of the CWL dues. This has been most welcome news by all at the provincial table.

Shortly after the Fall Meeting, Rolande Chernichan, National Faith Chair in her Communique #2 reported:

Even if a member was not a paid-up member at the time of passing (as can be the case with an elderly member), the parish council should report to national office the member's name and date she was deceased so that her name can be included in the national Book of Life.

All levels are now including these members in the Book of Life. Please be sure to pass this information along to all our parish councils. Consider preparing a special Mass for your diocese or parish council to pray for the departed sisters in the League and spiritual advisors.

On December 11, 2023, we will be hosting a virtual prayer service for our spiritual advisors and for vocations. Bishop Thomas Dowd, the Ontario Provincial Council Spiritual Advisor will be co-hosting. An email was sent to all Diocesan Spiritual Advisors inviting them to be part of the virtual prayer service—encourage your advisors to become a part too. Our spiritual advisors are an important part of our councils and this is an opportunity to pray for them—what better way to show them we care. Poster with the link for registration has been attached.

Blessings and hugs,  
Wilma Vanderzwaag