



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## MEMO

**DATE:** March 31, 2025  
**FROM:** Joline Belliveau, National Chairperson of Service  
**TO:** Provincial Presidents and Secretaries  
**CC:** National Officers  
National Life Member Liaison

---

**Please forward this message to chairpersons of service  
according to your provincial communications protocol.**

---

National Family and Life Week 2025 will be observed from **May 11<sup>th</sup> to May 18<sup>th</sup>**. The week emphasizes the value of family and life within communities. This year's theme, *Abound in Hope*, aligns with the transformative power of faith and family support.

Drawing on the gospel story of Jairus' family, where Jesus heals Jairus' daughter, *Called to Witness and Proclaim: A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization and Catechesis in the Family* highlights how families today, like Jairus', face challenges but can find hope, renewal and strength through faith and love.

Key themes include:

- The *Kerygma*—the core message of the gospel is the proclamation that Jesus loves you, gave his life for you, and walks beside you every day.
- Families as “schools of love,” living and sharing their faith through daily sacrifices, love and mutual support.
- The church's role is to accompany families through life's struggles and help them embrace their mission as “missionary disciples,” bringing hope and transformation to their communities.

The letter calls for families to become witnesses to Christ's love, sharing the good news through their daily actions and faith, just as Jairus' family did after their encounter with Jesus. It emphasizes the profound role of families in evangelization and shaping society with gospel values.

## **What is the Significance of National Family and Life Week?**

National Family and Life Week holds deep significance as it celebrates the importance of family and the value of life in creating strong, supportive communities. It's a time to reflect on the role of families as the foundational unit of society and to promote the well-being of individuals, particularly within the family structure.

The week often emphasizes themes such as respect for life at all stages, fostering positive relationships and providing support for families to thrive. It's also an opportunity for various organizations, religious groups and community leaders to advocate for policies and initiatives that enhance family life and protect the dignity of every individual.

National Family and Life Week is more than just a week—it's a chance to honour the bonds that bring people together, encourage meaningful connections and inspire hope.

Pope Francis' thoughts on the family from *The Joy of Love*:

- Families thrive on kindness, gratitude and humility—embodied by the essential words “Please,” “Thank you,” and “Sorry.”
- Crises are inevitable in family life but can deepen relationships and strengthen bonds when overcome.
- Effective parenting focuses on nurturing children's freedom, maturity and autonomy rather than micromanaging their every move.
- Families are the foundational space for learning values and the responsible exercise of freedom.
- Families shouldn't isolate themselves but actively engage with society, fostering solidarity and community connections.
- Expectant mothers are encouraged to embrace the joy of motherhood, free from external fears or judgments, as their happiness profoundly impacts their child.