



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## MEMO

**DATE:** March 25, 2019

**FROM:** Pat Deppiesse, National chairperson of Christian family life

**TO:** Parish chairpersons of Christian family life

**CC:** Parish presidents, provincial presidents, diocesan presidents, life members (upon request)

Dear parish council chairpersons of Christian family life, especially those of you who are newly elected to these positions, I want to welcome you and look forward to working with you. Thank you for your resounding "Yes!" to helping to guide your councils into the future. It is an exciting time, and I assure you, the Strategic Planning is going very well. You will be hearing more about this at your conventions. We have three national sub-committee chairpersons, Nancy Simms, Vocations; Evelyn Rigby, Pro Life and Joan Bona, Ministry to Seniors and I look forward to including information from them in my communiques.

Those of you new to the Christian family life standing committee position will want to obtain a copy of the roles and responsibilities, part of the Executive Handbook found on the website [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) under 'manuals'. You may also have duties described in your parish Policy & Procedure manual. The Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) have a wonderful package of brochures that can be downloaded from their website, or ordered for your use.

### **Sanctity of Life**

Many of our pro-life activities take part in May and I will highlight a couple here. We have updated our Pro-Life brochure and there is a copy for your parish included in this mail out. It presents ideas on how members can help, how we can serve, how we can educate ourselves and others on all Pro-Life issues. I urge you to order copies for your members and to place some in your vestibules. The Pro-Life Brochure #305 "The Catholic Women's League of Canada believes in life from its beginning to its natural end" may be ordered from the national office.

### **March for Life – May 9, 2019**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual national March for Life commemorates 50 years of legalized abortion in Canada. This year, we march in our nation's capital to urge our parliamentarians to put an end to this assault on human life. We march for a law that will protect each and every human being from the time of conception until natural death. If you live too far away to attend the National March for Life in Ottawa, you may still be able to stand up for life, as many provinces also hold regional marches at

their provincial legislatures on the same day. I urge you to plan to attend and organize a bus, encouraging your members to attend with you. Last year at least 31,000 Canadians participated in the national and provincial marches combined, signaling that abortion is by far the greatest human right and social justice issue in Canada.

### **Life Chain – October 6, 2019**

Life Chain is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for 90 minutes praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. Life Chain is held simultaneously in more than 200 locations across Canada each year. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, October 6, 2019 from 2-3 pm in most locations.

### **Euthanasia**

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) has produced a shorter (55 minute) DVD documentary entitled “Fatal Flaws, Legalizing Assisted Death” which asks, should we be giving doctors the right in law to end the life of others by euthanasia or assisted suicide? Please order a copy at [www.epcc.ca](http://www.epcc.ca) and show it in your councils.

### **Ministry to Separated and Divorced**

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> the spring League magazine will be sent out with a Christian Family Life column regarding the Annulment process. This is a very important way we can help educate our sisters in the League about this subject. There will also be a brochure on the national website “Annulments Today – Merciful and Just” which may be ordered from the national website.

I do hope to see many of you at the national convention, please introduce yourself to me!

God bless you as you work for God and Canada through the Christian Family Life Standing Committee –



Pat Deppiesse  
National chairperson of Christian Family Life