

# Christian Family Life

Date: September 9, 2019



Communiqué #5

*Care for Our Common Home*

**TO: Provincial Chairpersons of Christian Family Life**  
**CC: National Executive (for information)**  
**FROM: Pat Deppiesse, National Chairperson of Christian Family Life**

Greetings to provincial chairpersons of Christian family life. Welcome and congratulations to those newly elected and gifted with this important standing committee! I hope you will enjoy it as much as I do. Enclosed is a list of the provincial chairpersons. I encourage you to share communiques with each other, as well as with me. Also attached for information is my oral report to the convention and Resolution 2019.01 Canada to Honour its Commitment to the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

The Christian family life standing committee touches the lives of everyone, the pre-born, youth, disabled, single, married, divorced, seniors, widowed, the elderly, the dying and religious vocations. Members vocation is to “grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.” At the provincial level, strive to be a conduit of information as to the various ways members can be involved in life and family issues. Members cannot do everything, but there is certainly something for everyone! Past national communiqués and oral reports for further information, as well as the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* and *Executive Handbook*, are available on the national website, cwl.ca.

## **Sanctity of Life**

At the 99<sup>th</sup> annual national convention in Calgary, August 2019, Resolution 2019.01 Canada to Honour its Commitment to the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* was adopted. This resolution urges the federal government to honour its legal commitment to the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* by providing legal protection to children before birth. The resolution, brief and action plan are attached. Urge every council to read and support the action plan by:

- Writing to the prime minister and minister of justice with copies to local members of parliament urging the legal protection to children before birth as stated in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which Canada signed and ratified.
- Educating members on the importance of legal protection for unborn children.

Please let me know if your councils receive a reply.

It is important to raise awareness to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops annual Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

I recently reviewed a YouTube article by Dr. Bridget Campion interviewing Dr. Moira McQueen regarding definitions of, and Catholic church teaching, about euthanasia and physician-assisted death. The alternative to euthanasia is good care until people die naturally—palliative caring for the dying. It is a counter-measure to the perceived need for euthanasia. See this interview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ore5YZv7rXY>.

### **Vocations**

Google “2019 World Day of Prayer for Vocations,” which was held on May 12, 2019. “The purpose of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly celebrate vocations to ordained ministry and religious life in all its forms. Many parishes and religious institutes commemorate this day with prayer for vocations and vocation promotion events. Considering that 73 percent of women and men professing final vows participated in one or more parish activities and 88 percent served in one or more parish ministries *before* entering religious life, our presence and participation in activities that mark this special day is essential.” (NRVC.net, “2019 World Day of Prayer for Vocations, May 12”)

Pope Francis states, “Dear friends, it is not always easy to discern our vocation and to steer our life in the right direction. For this reason, there needs to be a renewed commitment on the part of the whole Church—priests, religious, pastoral workers and educators—to provide young people in particular with opportunities for listening and discernment. There is a need for a youth ministry and a vocational promotion that can open the way to discovering God’s plan, above all through prayer, meditation on God’s word, eucharistic adoration and spiritual accompaniment” (Pope Francis, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 2019).

If you were unable to attend the national convention, you may have watched the live-stream of the wonderful presentations. Recordings will soon be available on the national website. Be sure to see “The League of the Future: Year 1” to stay informed on strategic planning initiatives and help build enthusiasm for members to attend presentations held in their diocese.

Remind councils of the importance of contributing to annual reporting surveys—they are made more user-friendly every year. Questions regarding the strategic planning process are included this year. Please remind everyone to “print” before they “submit”!

May God bless you as you continue your work “For God and Canada.”



Pat Deppiesse  
National Chairperson of Christian Family Life