



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: March 26, 2020

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)

Congratulations to new chairpersons, and thank you for saying “yes” when requested to take on this role. Christian family life is one of the most interesting standing committees and one each member can feel part of. To better understand the role, obtain copies of the *Executive Handbook*, the *Constitution & Bylaws*, and copies of communiqués sent by diocesan, provincial and national chairpersons, which, if not handed down to you, may be found on their respective websites. Do not feel overwhelmed! Extract what is important and take the opportunity to share the news with council members through an oral report. Aim to stop the “no report” response to the president when she calls on you! However, keep reports short! One member advised to write a short, half-page report to distribute at the meeting—a good idea!

On January 31st, Archbishop Richard Gagnon, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), sent a letter to the prime minister and other federal ministers, decrying the effort to expand euthanasia within the country. He requested, “... a more extensive, thorough, impartial, and prolonged consultation on the question, in order to ensure all pertinent factors—social, medical, and moral—are carefully and thoroughly considered.” A minister’s office has now expressed openness to the idea of a higher-level meeting with the CCCC. It is such an important issue. Encourage members to write letters to ask their members of parliament to protect the vulnerable by opposing upcoming legislation to expand euthanasia to include persons with disabilities, including those with mental health concerns and cautioning against expanding medical assistance in dying.

The annual report surveys have been received for review and preparation of my annual report. Members have been such active and involved women! God bless you for all your great work. The national Christian family life report will be summarized at cwl.ca as of May 15, 2020.

Encourage members to participate in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care initiative during National Hospice Palliative Care Week, May 4-10, 2020 and call on the power of prayer to make hospice and palliative care available to all Canadians. The CCCC is creating an education kit aimed at helping parishes ensure Catholics understand what palliative care is and how it can be accessed. These kits will be available in 2021 and distributed to all parishes.

I wish you a very holy and blessed Easter.