



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

Communiqué # 10

Care for our Common Home

Date:	March 8, 2019
To:	Diocesan Chairpersons of Christian Family Life
CC:	Provincial Executive (for information) National Chairperson of Christian Family Life (for information)
From:	Carol Schlachter, Provincial Chairperson of Christian Family Life

It seems as though just yesterday was Christmas and now we are in our Lenten Journey. It is true, time waits for no one. There is no end to our work as members of The Catholic Women's League and I am convinced you are tackling issues with great JOY in serving.

ALBERTA MARCH FOR LIFE

"The Alberta March for Life Association is an independent pro-life group whose mission is to promulgate the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death and the dignity of disabled people. Our main objective is to conduct an annual peaceful outdoor march where invited speakers would speak about pro-life issues, to share information and raise public awareness. We welcome all persons who support pro-life ideals and are open to partnering and cooperating with organizations which promote and advance our mission". – *quoted from the March for Life pamphlet.*

Alberta March for Life will be held Thursday, May 9, 2019 beginning with mass at St. Joseph's Basilica in Edmonton. This year's theme is "*Heart Detected; Must be Protected*". The five dioceses have new banners in support of the March for Life. It is hoped that all dioceses will be represented at the Alberta March for Life. For more information and for the new brochure access the website: www.albertamarchforlife.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM OUR NATIONAL CHAIR, CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE

Members are encouraged to download the Revised Pro-Life Brochure from cwl.ca and print it for use in their parishes. Ideas are presented on how members can assist with the special times of life's beginnings and natural endings, provides education suggestions and includes the Prayer for the Protection of Human Life provided by COLF.

The following message has been forwarded to all Diocesan Christian Family Life Chairs to share with their respective councils.

Ministry to Separated and Divorced

National Chairperson of Christian Family Life Pat Deppiessé's article in the upcoming spring 2019 issue of *The Canadian League* contains information about the annulment process when some marriages just can't

be saved. Families affected by divorce may not be aware of available help allowing them to move forward and return to the graces of the church by petitions for a declaration of nullity of their former marriage. Consider reaching out in compassion, with loving prayers and supportive companionship to those affected by divorce. To assist with this initiative a booklet entitled *Annulment Process* will be available on the national website on April 23rd. This booklet was compiled with the assistance of the Vancouver archdiocesan marriage tribunal office. An effective educational tool for members and councils, the booklet may be downloaded from cwl.ca and copies printed for council use.

EUTHANASIA

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (info@epcc.ca) keeps us informed on the fight against Euthanasia. Members are encouraged to access the website for very important messages that can assist us with our work in this regard. We must continue to lobby for better palliative care for all Canadians. A resolution passed at National Convention 2018.03 *Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying*. Members are urged to write letters to the Prime Minister, Ministers of Health and members of Parliament and the legislature.

MENTAL HEALTH

Bell Program "Let's Talk" was an excellent TV program and hopefully many of our members were able to view it. The fact that people from all walks of life are affected by Mental Health was proven by hearing the interviews during the program. Mental Health affects all of us. This topic is a category under the standing committee of Education and Health but becomes a definite cross over with other committees. Mental Health is a high-profile issue and it is encouraging to read when reviewing annual reports that some councils are taking the initiative to provide education to their members. One such council in the Diocese of Grouard-McLennan hosted a very informative evening for its members. The evening started with an introductory of the fact that Mental Health is just as important to maintain as Physical Health. There is a stigma attached to mental health problems. People need to know that it is okay to talk about it, express one's feelings and seek help. Two guest speakers were invited to address the group in attendance. One, a grief counsellor and the other shared his own personal testimonial and experience. Perhaps other councils have moved into the direction of educating their members and others on this issue. If not, all are encouraged to do so.

Another encouraging movement towards educating the public about Mental Health was an article in our local Brooks paper January 31, 2019. The article was entitled "Taking a Grassroots Approach to Mental Health in Bassano". The article talked about two ladies, rural residents who attended a Canadian Mental Health Association presentation on mental health first aid and associated training at the conference.

It was an eye opener for the ladies and in realizing the lack of assistance available to rural residents i.e. having to travel out of town even to get an appointment for help is a problem. After brainstorming, the two ladies set out to make a difference in their community. With the help from their local Health Foundation and Canadian Mental Health, there is a movement to introduce a course on this issue in their hometown.

Depression, anxiety issues, grief, financial issues and those struggling with physical disabilities are only some of the issues cited which cause mental health problems.

Grassroots – We too, can make a difference!

VOCATIONS

Sunday, May 12 is the 56th annual World Day of Prayer for vocations.

Visit www.worlddayofprayerforvocations.com for more details.

