

<b>The Catholic Women's League of Canada</b> <b>Manitoba Provincial Council</b> <b>Christian Family Life</b>		
<b>Date; May 25, 2020</b>		<b>Communique #5</b>
<b><i>Care For Our Common Home</i></b>		
<b>TO:</b> Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils) Diocesan Chairpersons of Christian Family Life <b>CC:</b> Provincial Executive (for information) <b>CC:</b> Pat Deppiesse, National Chairperson of Christian Family Life (for info <b>FROM:</b> Marielle Rigaux, Provincial Chairperson of Christian Family Life <b>ATT:</b>		

It's been four months since CWL Day of Celebration. It was a wonderful day in a lot of ways, I laughed, I cried. The program was wonderful and thought provoking thanks to our National President and to Fr. Paul. I was also blessed with being presented the Belle Guerrin Award by two fantastic and dedicated women of the League. I had no clue whatsoever of whom they were speaking of. I thought "oh, someone else who's been in as long as I have". Janet and Crystal, you did a fantastic job and you managed to get my husband in on the secret and joining in the presentation and for lunch. Thank-you Margaret Silverthorne for nominating me and to Prov. Executive for approving the nomination. I'm ever so grateful.

A lot has happened in the past few months. Amazing how life can be disrupted and become an inconvenience and scare us all, all because of Covid 19. When you think of the countries that have been denied practicing their Catholic faith, of receiving the sacraments for decades, we have had but a small taste of what that is. We long after only this short time to go back and celebrate God. All of Easter season will have gone by with no church attendance. We have participated in virtual mass, we have done Novenas, Spiritual Bouquets and recited the Rosary daily during the month of May. Covid19 gave us time to pray, reflect and realize that faith and family are most important.

**WALK FOR LIFE:** All organizations cancelled their planned activities. The Walk for Life became a virtual walk as we join with Ottawa, online and participate in the walk that way. I look forward to next year when we can hopefully join, participate and support the Walk.

**FAMILY LIFE:** Covid 19 proved deadly in other ways. It affected the elderly, they could not see family and many succumbed to the illness "alone". How terribly sad and tragic for the patient and their families.

The pandemic has wreaked havoc in family life for a great many people throughout Canada. There has been an “epidemic of domestic abuse” during this pandemic (Free Press April 15/20). The Crown Attorney states that there have been up to that date an “unprecedented number of cases of domestic and child abuse. There has been an escalation of abuse due to tension in the homes. All this togetherness gets on some people’s nerves. Some live in crowded conditions, lost jobs, shortage of food in the home, mostly a shortage of patience and coping skills. Those who suffer the most are the children. Funding and Resources to shelters have been reduced and social distancing in shelters are a concern. We as CWL are at the front line against domestic violence and child abuse. We must keep working to stop this epidemic. Through the years the CWL has been very generous in supporting these issues (shelters, food banks, soup kitchens) and are called to support more so now than ever.

**VAPING:** The CWL had “Resolution 2014.02 Electronic Cigarettes” which was presented to gov’t in regards to vaping. It continues to be an attraction to secondary students. It presents severe respiratory health issues and even death in young people.(lung transplant in an 18 yr. old State side due to his vaping). Vaping may increase severe symptoms and complications in people infected with Covid 19. More work has to be done to prevent the growing use of vaping products. “Vaping has more than doubled since 2017” (Free Press) In a survey taken, 40% reported daily or near daily use of the products used in vaping. Increased vaping and its unknown consequences threaten the health of our youth: it has been linked to higher risk of progression to cigarette smoking when it was introduced as a means to quit smoking. Vaping is a catastrophe in the making. To read the full version of this article go to “Winnipegfreepress.com” or “theconversation.com/ca

Have a wonderful summer, know that I think of you all. I miss my friends and pray we all stay safe and healthy so we can all meet again in the fall.  
Our Lady of Good Council be with you always,

Blessings,  
Marielle

## Christian Family Life

Date: April 10, 2020

Communique #4

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### CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

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TO: Diocesan Presidents and Provincial Executive (for info)

BCC: National Chairperson for Christian Family Life

FROM: Marielle Rigaux, MB. Prov. Chairperson of Christian Family Life

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Being from a small rural community, living through this crucial time in history, with COVID-19 appears to me to be easier than in an urban center. We are already distanced from socially interacting a lot as there's no place to go and we tend to be stocked up and learned a long time ago to make do. It's easier to follow the rules set up for us.

On the website CCCB, [cccb.ca](http://cccb.ca) you will find the beautiful "Hope, Gratitude and Solidarity: A Message to Canadians from Religious Leaders in Canada in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

( from my Prov. Council chairperson)

On [vaticannews.va](http://vaticannews.va) is the following message "The Dicastery has also proposed a votive Mass "specifically to implore God to end this pandemic." The opening prayer reads:

"Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress: in faith we pray, look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name."

### **Sanctity of Life**

The CCCB issued its response to Bill C-7 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying) which tabled on Monday, February 24, 2020

In response, the bishops expressed concern with Bill C-7 which "seeks to expand the eligibility criteria for euthanasia and assisted suicide by removing the "reasonable foreseeability of natural death criterion in the Criminal Code and by loosening some of the existing 'safeguards' allowing patients whose death is 'reasonable foreseeable' to waive final consent to receiving euthanasia by making an advance directive"

In voicing strong opposition to the proposed legislation, the bishops call upon “all Canadians who also oppose the new Bill to make their voices heard” and urge members of Parliament to acknowledge the giftedness of life as an inalienable right not to be taken away by others, the importance of compassion for the ill and dying, as well as the responsibility to protect the most vulnerable.”

Archbishop Richard Gagnon (Winnipeg), president of the CCCB, asks the League to encourage members to send individual letters to their members of parliament. This need not be a complicated affair. A convenient platform is available on the Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience [website, canadiansforconscience.ca](http://www.canadiansforconscience.ca). An electronic letter to one’s respective member of parliament automatically generated after the required contact information fields are filled.

### **March for Life**

I await further instruction here in Manitoba in regards to the March for Life to be held in May. Things may change a lot from now till then due to COVID-19.

### **Social Justice**

Many still volunteer at food banks while still practicing “social distancing” and fewer donations are being made.

### **Christian Family Life**

Due to churches being closed the 3 archdiocese have “ facebook.com links to access mass on Sundays which are being livestreamed or on “youtube.com”. Please check your archdiocese as to the times available.

**Salt & Light TV** is free in Manitoba till May 1rst on Shaw Cable and Shaw & Bell MTS for daily Mass.

### **Marriage Family Life**

April 18<sup>th</sup>: New National Week for Life and the Family will be Live Streamed, Online Catholic family Conference for families while exploring the theme “Our Children: Embracing God’s Gift of Love – A Gift within our Church Village & Family.

Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> from 2 pm.-4:45.

Guest speaker: Keith Dunn

Registration required : online at <http://tridiocesan.rsvpfy.com> free

### **Ministry to Youth**

World Youth Day to be held in Lisbon 2022, with the theme “Mary arose and went with haste (Lk 1:39)” All councils are encouraged start planning how they can help the youth of the parishes to attend this International event.

As this is the League's Centennial year, watch [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) for updates on this event. With all conventions cancelled at all levels of the CWL, things may have changed: however, members will still have this celebration at some point.

Hope you all have had a joyous Easter despite what our "Common Home" is going through. Let us pray that this is the darkest of times we will ever live through.

Marielle Rigaux

Provincial Chairperson/Christian Family Life

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**  
**MANITOBA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**  
**CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME**

March 3, 2020

Communique #3

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**TO: Diocesan President (to: Parish Council Diocesan chair of Christian Family Life**

**Provincial Executive (for info)**

**National Chairperson of Christian Family Life**

**From: Marielle Rigaux, MB. Provincial chairperson of Christian Family Life.**

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**Marriage and family**

There will be a “**Fertility Health Awareness Seminar**” held at no cost

April 23 at 6:30 to 9:30 in the St. Boniface Cathedral Hall. Registration is required.

**Family Faith Encounter** is a 2 day conference held June 12-13<sup>th</sup> in Duck Lake Sask.

Speakers are Tim Staples and Bishop Albert Thevenot. ( if you are wanting a road trip) more info can be found on the St. Boniface archdiocese newsletter.

Youth: **World Youth Day** will be held in Lisbon, July 2022. Now is good time to help sponsor someone in your community to attend. It is quite the spiritual experience so I'm told.

Please get information out to the younger kids who would love to go to camp about **St. Malo camp**. Sending kids to another denominations camp aka: Winkler Bible camp is a fun time but not a good alternative as the kids are not learning their own faith.(especially if the family is not practicing)

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

As a response to the tabling of Bill C-7 which would amend the Criminal Code (MAID). The Bishops express their concerns with this bill that seeks to expand the eligibility criteria for euthanasia and assisted suicide by removing the “reasonable foreseeability of natural death” criterion in the Criminal Code and by loosening some of the existing “safeguards” allowing patients who are close to death to waive final consent to receiving euthanasia by making an advance directive.

We must continue to challenge Bill C-7, show the government that good “palliative care” is very much available in our hospitals and respite homes.

I have included the National chairs communique along with this report.

**Sanctity of Life:** **The March for Life** will be held Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your CWL members to come and participate. I am aware that for many of us who are on the other side of 70 that this walk is more than likely challenging. The program is just being finalized this past week. Included with this report is the necessary information for the where, when and the route being taken for the March.

**Be My Voice ;**

**“SOMETHING NON HUMAN DOESN’T**

**BECOME HUMAN BY GETTING OLDER AND BIGGER. WHATEVER IS HUMAN IS**

**HUMAN FROM THE BEGINNING” Randy Alcorn**

**Blessings,**

**Marielle**

You got to start thinking like you’re blessed, talking like you’re blessed, and acting like you’re blessed. That’s how your blessing get activated.

## The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Manitoba Provincial Council

August 25, 2019

Communique #1

Care for our Common Home

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TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information & forwarding to Parish Councils),  
Diocesan Chairpersons of Christian Family Life

CC: Provincial Executive (for information)  
National Chairperson of Christian Family Life (for information)

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“We are all dependent on one another, every soul of us on earth”

(George Bernard Shaw)

Hello from rural Manitoba. This is my favorite time of the year because of harvest, when we reap what we sow. This year is proving to be a challenge but God provides and so he shall in “his time”. It’s like writing reports at the end of the year, we gather all of our works, pray it has made a difference and we share.

I’m starting my 4<sup>th</sup> term on Provincial Council, I am what I consider a recall. I am a now retired farm wife but am busy in our community. I have one loving husband, 2 daughters (1SIL) 1 son (1DIL) and 6 grandsons. I was a nurse and have done palliative care here in our hospital.

Christian Family Life is new to me but I will give it my all and try to provide you with the latest in the area are relevant to Christian Family Life.

### **Ministry to Seniors, the Disabled and Youth:**

Pat Deppiesse, our National Chairperson of Christian Family Life encourage us to watch the clip from a meeting at the UN Status of Women Conference which you can find at [“lifeneews.com/2019/04/22/watch-lila-rose-slams-abortion-at-the-un-its-never-right-to-intentionally-take-a-human-life.”](http://lifeneews.com/2019/04/22/watch-lila-rose-slams-abortion-at-the-un-its-never-right-to-intentionally-take-a-human-life)

Speaking of a “human life”, how many of you this summer had the opportunity to see the movie “**Unplanned**”? For those us who had the opportunity, speaking for myself it was emotionally disturbing and I cried. It reminded me of when as a young woman, I worked at the Vancouver General Hospital and there were marches back then against abortion and the lawn in front of the hospital was covered in bouquets of Baby Roses in remembrance of all those tiny lives taken.

I will provide the date for “March for Life” when contacts and plans have been made.

**Euthanasia:** We are encouraged to read “LifeCanada’s” article, “The Current Situation of MAID in Canada” at [lifecanada.org](http://lifecanada.org) to learn about the status of medical assistance in dying. In comparing other countries in the world, Canada has an unusually high number at over 4000 deaths since legalization in 2016.

**Please** check out the “National CWL” website and read the communique from Pat Deppiesse, there is far more information there and I do not do her communique justice by giving you small snippets.

**Ministry to Separated and Divorced:**

In the spring issue of the Canadian League magazine there is an article on the “Annulment Process”. It used to take years to get an annulment in the Catholic Church. The process was long, required people vouching for you etc. and if you had the money you could speed things along. With approximately half the marriages ending in divorce the process has been revised. At the Fireside Chats with Fr. Caruso in Mesa, Arizona, he related to us that the process should only take 18 months (in the U.S) Fr. Caruso sat on that committee so was knowledgeable about the topic.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any problems or questions that I could help you with or find information for you. I am here to serve and do my best.

Reminding everyone that annual reports will be due, never too early to get a start and please remind your members that your memberships are also due. Time to recruit.

We could also use some help at Provincial Council as there are a few vacancies. I’m a “recall” you are “called”.

Blessings to all and pray for those who “in the League” are facing and struggling with illness, health issues in their families and for those who are struggling with family faith issues.

Respectfully,

Marielle Rigaux