

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE



DATE: September 1, 2017

Communique #1

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Christian Family Life
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Christian Family Life (for information)
FROM: Crystal Reiter, Provincial Chairperson of Christian Family Life
ATT:

*"We fail in the work of grace and love when there is too much of us and not enough of God."
— Suzanne Woods Fisher, The Search*

Greetings CWL sisters. A brief introduction to me - I am starting my third term on provincial council. I have a very loving and supportive family behind me - husband, three sons, one daughter-in-law and a granddaughter. I am a nurse who has worked in many areas, including palliative care.

Christian Family Life is a huge area. I may not include every area in every communiqué, but I will try to get what is current and important in a timely manner.

Ministry to Seniors, the Disabled, and Youth:

Our National Chairperson for Christian Family Life has urged us to ask within our councils these questions.

- Is there a home visitation team?
- Is there a palliative care team?
- Are rides offered to senior members to attend socials or parish functions?
- Are there prayer partners?

Marriage and the Family:

We had the privilege of listening to Ken Yazinski at the National Convention. What powerful messages he delivered! He draws from many experiences with his family to deliver his message. One of the key messages I took away was that grateful people have all sorts of advantages. He suggests you keep a journal of gratitude in which you write five things daily for which you are grateful. Be very specific. Let us try to take these messages into our marriages! Sometimes we forget to be grateful and only focus on our perceived problems. Complaining kills gratitude!

For more inspiring messages from Ken, visit: <http://catholicspeaker.com/>

Sanctity of Life:

40 Days for Life - You are invited to join nearly one million persons worldwide by participating in the 40 Days for Life Campaign.

From Sept. 27 to Nov. 5, 2017 you are invited to pray, bear witness and vigil outside of Winnipeg's major abortion facility, the Women's Hospital at (HSC), 735 Notre Dame Ave., Winnipeg. To commit to participate, please sign the online calendar at www.40daysforlife.com/winnipeg

Opening Mass will be offered by Fr. Dominic Yuen on Tuesday, September 26, at 7:30 pm at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 250 Burrin Ave, Winnipeg.

For other information, contact Maria Slykerman at 204-452-2459 or by e-mail: clcwpgmb@gmail.com.

Life's Vision - Annual Hike, Bake Sale and BBQ - Sept. 16, 9:00AM, St. Anthony of Padua

Life's Vision - Conference and Banquet October 14.

Watch for information coming very shortly to help your diocese or council plan activities related to the National Week for Life and Family and the March for Life. The theme and materials will be released this month so we all have adequate time to prepare our activities!

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE



October 20, 2017

Communiqué # 2

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Christian Family Life
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Christian Family Life (for information)
FROM: Crystal Reiter, Provincial Chairperson of Christian Family Life

"She is clothed in strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future." Proverbs 31:25

This Communiqué feels a bit like a news release, but there is so much going on as we move towards the season of Advent.

Ministry to Seniors, the Disabled, and Youth:

The Catholic School of Evangelization, located in St. Malo, MB, is currently searching for a talented individual to fill its Camp Director position for its St Malo Catholic Camp program. The Camp Director will be in charge of running the high-quality summer and winter camp programs. Going on its 25th year, the camp program offers amazing summer and winter camp experiences for kids ages 5 to 17. This position will be part time until May 1st, and will then become full-time for the rest of the summer. For more information, please read the full job posting online. www.catholicway.net/careers

Salt + Light TV has organized a National Youth Forum in preparation for the upcoming Synod of Bishops on the theme "*Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment*" which will be broadcast on 22 October 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in English and at 9 p.m. in French.

World Youth Day (WYD) will be taking place in Panama in 2019. Following is the link to the WYD website. Consider helping youth from your parish toward this goal! http://www.jmjyouth.com/wyd-groups.html?gclid=EAAlaIQobChMIyu3C1N7_1gIVAzFpCh2f4gH7EAAYASAAEgJlQ_D_BwE

Marriage and the Family:

The Episcopal Commission for Doctrine of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has released a new document entitled "[Discovering the Unity of Life and Love – A Reflection on the Foundations for a Theology of Human Love](#)". At the same time as reflecting on the images and conflicting messages about the meaning of life and of love in contemporary Canadian society, the Bishops recall "the beauty and profundity of how God created us and our primary relations to others, to the world and to God." [Read more](#)

The document above presents a good explanation of the position of the CCCB on the question of gender identity. It also reminds us that life is a gift from God!

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For information, contact Maria Slykerman at 204-452-2459 or by e-mail: clcwpgmb@gmail.com.

Watch for information coming very shortly to help your diocese or council plan activities related to the National Week for Life and Family and the March for Life. The theme and materials will be released this month so we all have adequate time to prepare our activities!

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE



March 5, 2018

Communiqué # 3

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Christian Family Life
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Christian Family Life (for information)
FROM: Crystal Reiter, Provincial Chairperson of Christian Family Life

"She is clothed in strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future." Proverbs 31:25

Ministry to Seniors, the Disabled, and Youth:

Many of us have already sent letters to our Members of Parliament to express our displeasure at the changes to the Canada Summer Jobs grant application criteria. We know that organizations that wish to apply for the grants must sign an attestation policy that is against our Christian morals and ideals. **There will be a motion voted on in the House of Commons on March 19th.** This motion is to restore the Canada Summer Jobs funding for any organization which does not participate in political activities. This would restore the eligibility of the Catholic School of Evangelization. Please contact your MP as soon as possible! This quick link will help you find the right information: [Find Your MP](#)

World Youth Day (WYD) will be taking place in Panama in 2019. Following is the link to the WYD website. Consider helping youth from your parish toward this goal! http://www.jmjyouth.com/wyd-groups.html?gclid=EA1aIQobChMIyu3C1N7_1gIVAzFpCh2f4gH7EAAYASAAEgJIQ_D_BwE

World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) has invited applications from youth to participate in the Dakar General Assembly in Senegal in October. This grant will pay for the costs of the assembly and half of the costs of travel. If your councils have any young women (18-35) who may be interested in this wonderful opportunity, please encourage them to apply. The deadline is March 30, 2018. Contact me if you need a registration form.

Sanctity of Life:

Marriage and Family: The National Week for Life and the Family will be celebrated May 13- 20, 2018 with the theme *Love: Encountering the Other*. COLF has put together free reproducible resources available online through the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) website www.cccb.ca/site/eng/media-room/4814-2018-national-week-for-life-and-the-family.

Petition of One Million 2019: A project to gather one million plus signatures to be presented to the federal government in 2019 in support of pro-life issues. Unfortunately, four million children have been killed by abortion since 1969, but every signature that is collected can recognize them. Proclaim to all Canadians that every life must be protected from conception to natural death. Visit petitionofonemillion.ca/sign-petition/ to download and print the signature page. Collect as many signatures as you can and send them to the address at the bottom of the petition. Please e-mail Alliance for Life Ontario at aflo@mgl.ca or call (866) 588-2684 with any questions.

Hike for Hospice (Palliative Care) – Sunday, May 6, 2017 at Shaw Park Promenade. This year's Hike will take place during the Winnipeg Goldeyes Open House – including first day of training camp, Ballpark Behind the Scenes Tours, food, fun & family entertainment! Hot Dogs, Chips and Refreshments will be served following the Hike.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE



September 4, 2018

Communiqué # 4

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Christian Family Life
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Christian Family Life (for information)
FROM: Crystal Reiter, Provincial Chairperson of Christian Family Life

"She is clothed in strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future." Proverbs 31:25

What an exciting National Convention we had! So fortunate to be able to experience a national convention right at home. There is so much going on that falls under the Christian Family Life standing committee and national convention was no exception!

Sanctity of Life:

Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition attended the convention in the exhibit room where part of his display was to promote the new film "Fatal Flaws: Legalizing Assisted Death". This film asks the question of whether we should really be giving medical professionals the right to kill. I have had the opportunity to see this film and it is really excellent!

Denise Mountenay from Together for Life Ministries was also in attendance. She travels around the world educating young women about the impact of legal abortion. She was promoting her book, "The Bride, The Serpent & The Seed" and her DVD "Hush".

Petition of One Million 2019: A project to gather one million plus signatures to be presented to the federal government in 2019 in support of pro-life issues. Visit www.petitionofonemillion.ca/sign-petition/ to download and print the signature page. If you have already signed, great, if not please download a copy for your council.

To quote the oral report of the out-going chairperson of Christian Family Life, Doreen Gowans – Archbishop J. Michael Miller (Vancouver) stated, "If the elderly, sick and suffering in our population feel that euthanasia is their best option, it means we as a society and as individuals are letting them down." As a palliative care nurse, I have always felt that this is truly the case! We must continue to strive to make palliative care more accessible for everyone. Life's Vision, together with LifeCanada has developed a program known as the Dying Healed Program. Please spend some time finding out what this program is all about and consider sharing the training opportunity with your councils. <https://lifecollective.io/lifes-vision-wpg>

Ministry Youth:

World Youth Day (WYD) will be taking place in Panama in 2019. Following is the link to the WYD website. Consider helping youth from your parish toward this goal! http://www.jmjyouth.com/wyd-groups.html?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIyu3C1N7_1gIVAzFpCh2f4gH7EAAYASAAEgJlQ_D_BwE

I had the opportunity to take part in a volunteer program where reusable feminine hygiene products are made for young women and girls in third world countries. This very important ministry allows the ladies to remain part of everyday life throughout their complete menstrual cycle. They are therefore not excluded from school for up to a week every month and have the very important ability to complete their education. This program is called Days for Girls. Feel free to ask me about it!

Ministry to Seniors:

October 1st is National Senior's Day. Please find ways to show the seniors in your council and parish their value. Consider car pools to help senior members to come to meetings. Perhaps you could find a way to salute seniors in conjunction with your October meeting?

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
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CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE



October 30, 2018

Communiqué # 5

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Christian Family Life
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Christian Family Life (for information)
FROM: Crystal Reiter, Provincial Chairperson of Christian Family Life

"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you..." 2 Timothy 1:6,

Sanctity of Life:

The Life's Vision Banquet is rapidly approaching. The keynote speaker is Stephanie Gray. She is a dynamic speaker who has a gift for speaking about Pro-Life issues. Her website and ministry is entitled "Love Unleashes Life". This year the banquet will be held at the Evangelical Free Church on Lagimodiere. I have included the poster with this communiqué.

Petition of One Million 2019: A project to gather one million plus signatures to be presented to the federal government in 2019 in support of pro-life issues. Visit www.petitionofonemillion.ca/sign-petition/ to download and print the signature page. If you have already signed, great, if not please download a copy for your council.

Ministry Youth:

I have noticed that the Shoebox ministry is out and being promoted in my community – you could seek it out in your own!

The horrible news to come out the United States this August has, of course, made its presence known throughout the church. Pope Francis addressed it in his letter to the faithful of August 20, 2018. The letter can be found on the Vatican news website. He said that in the past these things were covered up because of a mentality of shame, even for the victims! I also listened to a homily from a priest by the name of Father Robert Altier in Crystal, Minnesota. The homily is a little terrifying, you can google it if you would like to listen to the whole thing. He says that the priesthood has been infiltrated from the inside since 1924 by predatory homosexuals and communists. Pretty scary stuff! My big take away was the reminder that our faith is placed in Jesus Christ, not priests, bishops, cardinals, or even the Pope. And that we can only affect change in the church from within! "Purification begins in the house of God" 1Peter 4:17

I also read the article on the Vatican News website about the final document generated from the Synod on Youth. It is divided into three parts.

1. **He walked with them** – Youth should be reached through the laity ministers, their schools and parishes and we need to practise preventative measures.
2. **Their eyes were opened** – the church can renew herself thanks to youth. Remember that every Baptism is a call to holiness! Youth should be accompanied and guided and discernment should be facilitated – the Catholic School of Evangelization is having a Discernment Weekend for Youth - https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/cfa17a_7596c5969fae4c54a66cfb1dec627497.pdf
3. They left without delay – focuses on moving from “I to we” and considers the multiplicity of faces, sensitivities, origins and cultures. There is a call to establish a directory of youth ministry in a vocational stream – to overcome fragmentation in the church. WE are to accompany our young people!

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2018-10/synod-of-bishops-young-people-final-document-summary.html>

Ministry to Seniors:

Since my last Communique I have had the opportunity to participate in a “Train the Trainer” workshop for the Dying Healed Program. This program is sponsored by Life’s Vision in Manitoba. It is no secret that I am a strong believer in Palliative care, it has been a large part of my professional life and remains very dear to my heart. I continue to believe that Palliative Care is the one and only means we have to fight against Medical Aid in Dying. People who feel physically comfortable and spiritually valued are far less likely to seek MAID. Dying Healed is not, truly, palliative care but is a means for volunteers and caregivers to reach out to the physically ill and the shut-ins in our parishes. Dying Healed addresses human dignity and the purpose and meaning of suffering. Also addressed is just the amazing power of human presence. Please consider this program in your parish or community. You can research it through the Life’s Vision Website. I chose to include this information under ministry to seniors because Dying Healed is about living, and so often seniors are lonely and isolated in care homes or in the community!

Some heavy content here! Sorry – we are travelling through some turbulent waters! Please access some of these websites and articles to keep yourself informed!

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
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March 1, 2019

Communiqué # 6

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Christian Family Life
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Christian Family Life (for information)
FROM: Crystal Reiter, Provincial Chairperson of Christian Family Life

"She is clothed in strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future." Proverbs 31:25

Ministry to Youth:

I am sure many of you are aware that a gathering of the leaders of our church on the theme of the Protection of Minors in the Church has just concluded. There were three concrete initiatives to come out of this gathering. Please continue to pray for our Priests, Bishops, and Cardinals as they continue to tackle this very real and very tough issue. Please also pray for the Survivors and the perpetrators of these "egregious crimes", as they were called by Pope Francis. The following link is the concluding address by the Holy Father. https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2019/february/documents/papa-francesco_20190224_incontro-protezioneminori-chiusura.html

Congratulations to any Councils who were able to help youth attend World Youth Day. I did not have the opportunity to meet anyone who was in attendance but the on-line reporting was great. World Youth Day 2019 stressed the response of Mary when she said "Yes" to the Lord. We can all learn from her and continue saying yes to the Lord!

Finally, the Catholic School for Evangelization is hosting a one-day Conference on Young People, The Faith and Vocational Discernment on Saturday, March 30th at St. John XXIII church. It is for clergy, religious, church leaders, volunteers, teachers, youth workers, catechists and anyone wanting to further their understanding of the Church's role with young people. Conference speakers include Bishop Lionel Gendron and Miss Emilie Callan. If you reach out to youth, please consider this wonderful opportunity. <http://events.catholicway.net>

Ministry to the Disabled:

Please continue to send letters to your MP and MLA about MAID. There continues to be pressure on our lawmakers to change the criteria for someone to use this program. Sick children's Hospital in Toronto is ready to go with policies related to children as soon as the criteria changes! Very scary business! [Find Your MP](#)

Sanctity of Life:

March For Life: Thursday, May 9th, Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at 10:30 AM followed by the March from Manitoba Legislative Grounds at 12:00. Come and walk with our provincial president as we proudly carry our banner! Please attend if you are able. If you are unable to walk there will be live music as the walk continues. Following the Walk there will be a few testimonies and a closing prayer.

#WEARECALLED

Petition of One Million 2019: You can still submit to this petition! If you have not already done so I have again included the information to obtain petitions. Visit petitionofonemillion.ca/sign-petition/ to download and print the signature page. Collect as many signatures as you can and send them to the address at the bottom of the petition. Please e-mail Alliance for Life Ontario at aflo@mgl.ca or call (866) 588-2684 with any questions

Lastly, if you have the opportunity please consider **Dying Healed**. As we pray for better and more Palliative Care this program gives us something positive and active to do. It is a program which educates volunteers about how to offer the valuable service of their presence to the dying and the shut ins. We know that loneliness can be a major factor in someone's decision to consider MAID. Please discuss this program within your council.

Marriage and Family:

The National Week for Life and the Family will be celebrated May 12 – 19, 2019 with the theme "Listen to the Gospel as a Family." COLF has resources, accessible on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) website. www.cccb.ca