

Manitoba Provincial Council
CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE Oral Report
June 4, 2022

My report for Christian Family Life can be found in the on annual booklet. Since February, 2022, I have participated in every Provincial Zoom meeting, sent out my communique and concluded and sent the Christian Family Life Report.

With all these winter storms it left me a lot of time to pray. Pray the Rosary daily for Peace & Protection of the Ukraine and its people and World Day of Prayer. Then came what seemed like a monsoon season in Manitoba and the praying continued. I attended the Day of Celebration, I participated in the 12 hours of Prayer for Palliative Care (at home) and attended the St. Boniface Diocesan Convention.

Webinars were on my radar. I took in the Joy Smiths webinar on May 28th on Human Trafficking. I have in the last nine years taken in presentations at the Human Rights Museum twice and once at the Regent. This was my first time listening to Joy Smith speak and the passion she has for rescuing the vulnerable and youth of our country is amazing. She wants the CWL to be her partner and has nothing but praise for the CWL as we support her whole heartedly. She stated that since Covid more boys are being lured and trafficked. Since war has broken in the Ukraine and children are being displaced and taken away they are likely being trafficked.

Joy states that more education is needed to reach the 12 & 14 yr. old who are the most likely to be lured and put into the trade. When these young people go online they can be lured within 45 min. They can be lured by men posing as young teenagers, by women and by young teens (under 16 they can't be charged). There are also programs available to help those who are wanting to get out of the trade.

She will go anywhere to speak for free on this topic. Promoting Joy Smith going into schools to speak to young people would be ideal. She did state that the Indigenous youth are the most vulnerable of our society.

The March for Life held in Steinbach on last Saturday May 28, I did not attend due to distance so Janet Brunger our Prov. President filled in for me. The following is her report. Susan Penner, executive director of Life Culture Canada welcomed all and gave a compelling, motivating outline on why we need to keep lobbying. Testimonial by Carole Enns on becoming pregnant at 15, having a baby at 16 and with the support of family being able to keep her baby. She eventually finished high school, met and married a wonderful man and had more children. She encourage us not to judge: rather, support and encourage all pregnant and new mothers. Compelling talk by Alex Schadenburg sharing that many people are being pressured to end their

lives unnecessarily. He shared that one woman, apparently near death, decided against euthanasia when her daughter said no, and took her mother home to care for her in comfort during her last days, but mother didn't die and in fact got better and is still living. Then, in BC a woman decided to end her life and called Alex to say they had come to see her to encourage her to go through with it, "and they didn't even bring me a sandwich. So Alex asked her about her situation and turned out she had cancer and severe arthritis so that she couldn't do her own laundry or shopping so apparently the only option was to end her life. Alex arranged to have those supports put in place for her and visited her a few months later and she was doing much better and SO grateful to him for providing her with options. Two other cases where individuals were being pressured to end their lives when their issues were chemical sensitivity and living in the welfare system where they were routinely exposed to second hand smoke, cleaning chemicals, etc. once arrangements were made for improved housing, their quality of life immediate improved and they no longer wanted to end their lives. In all these case the individuals only need a caring advocate.

The walk was 3 km, followed by complimentary hot dogs, chips, Timbits and water

This was attended by about 300 people.

LIFE CULTURE BANQUET : Crystal Reiter reporting. about 150 people were in attendance at the Niverville Heritage Center. Susan Penner was the host of the evening. She shared some of the things done through Life Culture including education, resources for women, gifts for single moms & post abortion support. She also introduced the board members. Ted Falk Member for Provencher brought greetings from the Federal PC. Party. He stated that the government of Canada is promoting a culture of death and what we really need in this country is a culture of love for all - including the baby and the woman who felt so desperate.

Tim Scatliff said grace and we embarked on a delicious meal. (not the regular rubber chicken).

Alex Shadenberg talked about Euthanasia, Not MAID, he said we should call it like it is! He stated that it is so often "sold" to people when they are in a crisis situation and in a very difficult time. It is often chosen through hopelessness, depression and loneliness. 2.5% of all deaths in Canada are now euthanasia and in BC it's up to 4%. He told us many stories of euthanasia and some stories of saving people by actually helping with their needs. We can help! Talk to the lonely and isolated and respond to calls for help. Sometimes it is a question of "I can't live this way" rather than wanting to die! Alex encourage us to write to member of the government about Bill C-230 "The Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act" for the protection of medical practitioners from having to refer a patient. Post cards available.

This concludes my report.

Marielle Rigaux

