



The Catholic Women's League
Manitoba Provincial Council
70th Annual Convention
June 3, 2018
ORAL REPORT
Christian Family Life
Crystal Reiter, Chairperson

My Annual Report can be found on pages 40 to 42 of the Annual Report Book.

Thank you to all the councils who submitted their annual reports. This time of transition is difficult for all of us! Keep persevering, we will get there!

Christian Family life includes marriage and the family, sanctity of life, and ministry to youth, disabled, seniors, widowed, separated and divorced and vocations. This is a huge portfolio and it is impossible for me to talk about everything today, so I have chosen to focus on a few key areas.

From the National Chairperson of Christian Family Life comes some information on Marriage. Doreen Gowan would like us all to know that studies have shown that pornography is a factor in over 50% of divorces. Clearly, our work in this area is not yet completed!

Doreen is also promoting the Petition of One Million. This project is to lobby the federal government for a law to protect unborn Canadians. I am not sure if everyone realizes that Canada is the only country in the world where there are absolutely no laws around abortion. This is unacceptable in this day and age where we understand the harm that comes to not only the baby, but both parents! Please make an effort to sign this petition so that our government knows how many people are concerned about this issue.

At the other end of the spectrum of life, palliative care is our Christian alternative to Euthanasia. Health Canada wants your ideas, innovations and lived experiences with palliative care. The link to the survey can be found on cwl.ca. The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition has sponsored a resource for people who have questions or need help or support around end of life issues. Compassionate Community Care is accessed through a toll-free confidential phone number. They will provide information, education, support and care during times of medical and personal crisis.

I also want to remind everyone of an unsuccessful campaign we had this winter. The federal government did not change the requirement to sign the "Attestation Clause" on Canada Summer Jobs Grant applications. Because of this, many Christian camps did not receive funding this summer. The Catholic School of Evangelization, our Catholic Summer Camp, is managing to run their camps this summer through increased fundraising and the continuing donations from people like us.

Finally, I want to talk about a new program I learned about on the news one day. Frankly, I am not even sure if this falls under Christian Family Life – but I am going to call it ministry to youth. There is a program called Days for Girls which is making kits for girls in third world countries to look after their personal needs during their periods. Without these supplies girls are forced to miss school for several days every month and this leads to dropouts and ultimately girls are not being educated. There is a group in Winnipeg making these kits – The last sewing day was April 30 and I found them on Facebook – Days for Girls Winnipeg Manitoba Chapter.

I have information about all these things – if you like!