



The Catholic Women's League  
**Manitoba Provincial Council**  
71<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention  
June 9, 2019  
**ORAL REPORT**  
**Christian Family Life**  
Crystal Reiter, Chairperson

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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. It is always a pleasure to learn all the things that councils are doing throughout our province, congratulate yourselves! Christian Family life includes marriage and the family, sanctity of life, and ministry to youth, disabled, seniors, widowed, separated and divorced and vocations. I have held this portfolio for two years now and there are new things to learn every day! I am still not able to talk about all areas of this standing committee within one oral report – so here are some highlights!

The Sanctity of Life seems to find its way to the forefront of conversation after conversation. We should all continue to pray without ceasing for the vulnerable in our society – the unborn, those with disabilities, the elderly, the ailing – uncertain times are upon us! I reread my report from last year and several things are still very important. You must continue to urge local and provincial governments to put value in palliative care. You can educate yourself through programs like Dying Healed – People who feel loved and cared for are far less likely to feel the need for MAID. Be certain that your name is on the Petition of One Million as it is to be submitted in early fall. The March for Life has grown in Canada to include more cities. I have had the opportunity to work fairly closely with the Winnipeg group and they are striving to bring the message of Sanctity of Life throughout the spectrum to all Manitobans, please continue to support this activity in the future. The National Chairperson of Christian Family Life has just helped create a new Pro-life brochure which you can print yourself or purchase through National Office. It is on the Resources – 300 series page. What a great resource!

The Archdiocese of St Boniface held an information session on the Health Care Proxy and Medical Assistance in Dying. I was not able to attend the sessions but have watched the You Tube videos which are accessible through the Archdiocese website. The speaker is a Catholic lady who is employed as the ethicist at St Boniface Hospital – Katarina Lee. Manitoba has a health care proxy form which is easily downloaded by googling “Government of Manitoba Health Care Proxy form”. This is a very quick and easy thing you can do to assure that the correct decisions are made if anything should happen to you. Trying to remember and dream up any possible situation is very difficult, if not impossible, but appointing someone who knows you and what you would want is a much easier way to assure yourself that appropriate care will be given to you.

Everyone has their spring magazine by now. The article by Pat Deppiesse “Annulment Process” is very informative. This may be a wonderful way for your council to reach out to ladies who feel distanced from the League and the church because of marital issues. There are very valuable resources here – consider an education session for your council!

Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si* (240) “The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that they enter into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures.” This pretty much sums up a lot of our goals in Christian family Life as we Care for Our Common Home!

Thank You!



**The Catholic Women's League**  
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**June 3, 2018**  
**ORAL REPORT**  
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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](http://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!