



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## MEMO

**DATE:** April 18, 2017

**FROM:** Doreen Gowans, national chairperson of Christian family life

**TO:** Parish chairpersons of Christian family life

**CC:** Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

Dear parish presidents, welcome to you and a special welcome to the newly elected parish presidents and chairpersons of Christian family life. 2017 is a bright new year, a time to work together as a team, share creative, new and innovative ideas, and help make this standing committee interesting and exciting, as we accomplish what the Holy Spirit has called us to do TOGETHER!

### **Resources**

For the newly elected presidents, does your council have Catholic Organization for Life and Family's (COLF) package with all the pamphlets containing the latest information to keep members informed? To download the package or to order it go to [colf.ca](http://colf.ca). The roles and responsibilities of Christian family life can be downloaded from the *Executive Handbook* found on [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca).

### **Marriage and Family**

The fifth National Week for Life and the Family will be celebrated from May 14 to May 21, 2017. This coincides with Mother's Day. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) through COLF is offering resources to celebrate this special week. Resources include a poster which can be freely downloaded and reproduced; a prayer card, also for downloading and photocopying; a proposed plan for pastors and lay pastoral workers on how they might organize the week; a message from the CCCC president; a proposal for prayer of the faithful; suggestions for related events and activities; and COLF's recent document entitled "*The Joy of Love*" *At the heart of the family*. This new resource provides a brief overview *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*) which Pope Francis issued following the Synod of Bishops on the Family. The document is available at [colf.ca](http://colf.ca).

This year's theme for National Week for Life and the Family is *Love Grows by Giving...* Doesn't this resonate with *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*? How will your council celebrate the National Week for Life and the Family? Families are being inundated with many challenges such as drug addiction, split families, etc. so this is an opportunity to bring families together in a positive way. What will your parish council celebration look like?

...next page

### **Sanctity of Life**

Have you had the opportunity to view the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition's (EPC) DVD – *The Euthanasia Deception* documentary? It is worth ordering and sharing with your parish council. It can be ordered from EPC at [info@epcc.ca](mailto:info@epcc.ca) or at [vulnerablefilm.com](http://vulnerablefilm.com). Invite your entire parish to view it with your council. If you have a hospice and palliative care society in your area invite it to attend and be open to questions. My council shared the DVD with our parish community along with a member of our local hospice society. Following the presentation the society asked to borrow the DVD to show to its staff. Spread the word and educate everyone. Consider having admission by donation with the funds going to the local hospice or palliative care society.

COLF has a Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Toolbox which asks questions such as: Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Why Not?; Living, Suffering and Dying...What For? It also includes a workshop guide. Share this information with your parish council.

Resolution 2004.01 Protection of Human Life calls upon members to urge the federal government to recognize that human life begins with the process of fertilization and to enact legislation prohibiting the termination of human life at any stage of development and Resolution 1995.02 Abortion Funding recommends that provincial councils request provincial and territorial governments to cease funding abortions. It also recommends that members write to their federal, provincial and territorial ministers of health and their federal, provincial and territorial government members to protest the use of public funds to finance abortions. I urge you to write to government officials at all levels making the League's resolutions known to them.

### **What's New?**

There is a newly written Christian family life prayer service coming to the website, along with a new pro-life brochure. Watch for both of these at [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca).

God bless you as we work together "For God and Canada". May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us always to answer the call of Jesus in the work we do.

Together we are a GREAT and wonderful TEAM of women doing what we can "For God and Canada" and beyond!



Doreen Gowans