



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## MEMO

**DATE:** March 26, 2018

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

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

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

Welcome! We are a TEAM, joining forces to share gifts and talents to be God's hands and feet on this beautiful planet earth which we call home!

**Marriage & Family:** On February 11, 2018 Pope Francis sent the following greeting to all who would be celebrating the Lunar New Year, "I send my cordial greeting to all families, with the hope that they will live it in greater solidarity, fraternity and the desire of goodness, contributing to create a society in which every person is accepted, protected, promoted and integrated. I invite you to pray for the gift of peace, precious treasure to be pursued with compassion, farsightedness, and courage."

- **National Week for Life and Family, May 13-20, 2018**, will be celebrated from the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, coinciding with Mother's Day, to Pentecost Sunday. The theme is *Love: Encountering the Other*. Materials prepared by the Catholic Organization for Life and Family in collaboration and consultation with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) are available at [www.CCCB.ca](http://www.CCCB.ca) and may be freely downloaded and reproduced.
- **Marriage Preparation Courses** are very valuable to engaged couples, generating conversations on issues couples may not think necessary, have had the opportunity to discuss or are overlooked. In an article from *Those Catholic Men* ([thosecatholicmen.com](http://thosecatholicmen.com)), it has been suggested that marriage preparation facilitators, who need to be completely faithful to the teachings of the Catholic church on sexual morality, tackle the issue of pornography, as research has shown it plays a significant role in over half of all divorces.
- **World Meeting of Families, August 21-26, 2018**, is promoted by the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, which has introduced a series of seven catechises on the family available at [laityfamilylife.va](http://laityfamilylife.va) or at its YouTube channel, PcFamiglia. The World Meeting of Families website also offers resources including the "Amoris: Let's Talk Family! Let's Be Family!" program, which includes six sessions of parish conversations for reflecting and sharing experiences of family life available at [worldmeeting2018.ie](http://worldmeeting2018.ie).

- The **Petition Of One Million** initiative, to gather one million plus signatures for presentation to the federal government in 2019, was started by Alliance For Life Ontario and is asking the federal government to enact legislation granting full legal protection to the unborn child from the beginning of its biological development as a human being – the same protection granted to any other human being. In 1975 a similar petition was held with reports showing the League was very instrumental in helping to collect 1,027,425 signatures. Unfortunately, four million children have been killed by abortion since 1969, but they can be recognized by every signature that is collected. Proclaim to all Canadians that every life must be protected from conception to natural death. Visit [petitionofonemillion.ca](http://petitionofonemillion.ca) to download and print the signature page. Collect as many signatures as possible and send them to the address at the bottom of the petition.

**Ministry to:**

- **Divorce/Separated:** If you or someone you know is dealing with a troubled marriage, separation or divorce, the website [rosesweet.com/divorce-healing/](http://rosesweet.com/divorce-healing/) offers a free newsletter by Rose Sweet, a Catholic speaker who may be of interest. Visit the website to subscribe. Saint Rita of Cascia is the patron saint for abuse victims and difficult marriages. Consider praying to her for help.
- **World Youth Day:** Pope Francis was the first person to register for World Youth Day in Panama, January 21-28, 2019. The CCCB selected two young Canadian adults as delegates to attend the pre-synod meeting of youth, in preparation for the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*, October 3-28, 2018. The delegates are Emilie Callan, from Cornwall, Ontario and Jacob Jason Genaille-Dustyhorn, from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Please keep these two young people in your prayers as they will represent Canadian youth.

Thank you for all the work you are doing for the League! Together we are a GREAT wonderful TEAM of women doing what we can for God, Canada and beyond! Ensure members know that they are appreciated. God bless you!

Doreen Gowans  
National Chairperson of Christian Family Life