



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: October 5, 2017

FROM: Fran Lucas, 1st vice-president and national chairperson of education and health

TO: Parish chairpersons of education and health

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

In listening to the comments of members, each amazing sub-committee chairperson has chosen a topic of focus for the next 11 months. Rita Janes' is environment, with a focus on the issue of water. Life Member Becky Kallal has health, focusing on mental health, and Life Member Gabriele Kalincak has education, focusing on the practice of Catholic education across Canada.

Rita's focus on water comes with a lot of research and information by way of statistics on things many of you may be wondering about, lists of resources and other groups also advocating for a national water strategy. Ask your provincial chairperson of education and health for the recent communique on Water: A Basic and Essential Resource for Life, where Rita covers all the aforementioned items in great detail or visit cwl.ca for a copy.

Becky's focus will be on mental health, covering the challenges faced by people of all ages, as well as the unique challenges of immigrants and refugees.

Gabriele has sent a request to all provincial chairpersons of education and health to research the current status of Catholic education in their provincial/territorial schools. Watch for the results of this survey in the near future.

Every effort will be made to bring information on other important and developing concerns throughout the year. Don't lose sight of what is happening with *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide*, Lyme disease and the problem of multiple chemical and environment sensitivities.

The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute has released a third series of videos for the Catholic Bioethics Moments YouTube channel entitled "Matters of Conscience". The videos are of interest to anyone wanting to learn more about Catholic teaching on conscience and moral decision-making as part of a lived faith. Covering such topics as decisions of conscience, conscientious

objection, intrinsic evil and formal cooperation in an evil act, each eight to nine minute video begins with a discussion of the topic, followed by definition of terms, relevant Catholic church teaching and sources. Visit www.ccbi-utoronto.ca/2017/09/05/matters-of-conscience/ for more information.

At my parish council's recent annual luncheon, guest speaker Anglican Bishop Jane Alexander (Edmonton), spoke on the theme *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*, and challenged us to individually answer the following, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has sent me to...". How will you finish that sentence?

God bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fran Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and a long, sweeping underline.

Fran Lucas