



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## MEMO

**DATE:** October 3, 2022  
**FROM:** Dorothy Johansen, 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)

Hello everyone and thank you for taking on this role in your parish council. It is an important standing committee with very large umbrellas to work under.

I am providing information that might be helpful in focusing your efforts in the parish council and community.

### **Marriage and Family**

There are excellent resources available for purchase from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops such as the brochure, *Marriage in the Catholic Church: Frequently Asked Questions*. Visit [cccb.ca](http://cccb.ca) for more information.

Bill C-265 *An Act respecting the development of a national perinatal mental health strategy*. This topic might be of interest to your council. Consider encouraging members to read the bill and express their thoughts on the bill to their member of parliament and the minister of health.

### **Sanctity of Life**

40 Days for Life will be held from September 28-November 6, 2022. Visit [40daysforlife.com](http://40daysforlife.com) to see if a vigil is planned in your diocese.

Campaign Life Coalition organizes the National March for Life, which will be held on May 11, 2023.

Members are encouraged to continue to support Euthanasia Prevention Coalition by signing up for news or making donations directly to the organization at [epcc.ca](http://epcc.ca).

Bill S-248 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)* is currently in its second reading in the Senate. Please ask members to contact their member of parliament, senators from their province and the minister of health to prevent the addition of pre-consent and also to prevent the disabled from being added to the criteria that are already in place.

## Ministry to...

**Youth:** World Youth Day is an international gathering of young people with the pope. It will be held in August 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. Councils are encouraged to support youth in their parish to attend this gathering.

The *Catholic Girls' League Administration Manual* has recently been updated. Please contact national office for a copy and consider starting a group this year.

**Disabled:** Bill C-295 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (neglect of vulnerable adults)* has passed first reading. This enactment amends the *Criminal Code* to create an offence for long-term care facilities, their owners and managers to fail to provide necessities of life to residents of the facilities. If your members wish to contact their member of parliament and the minister of justice to make comments on this act, it would be appreciated.

**Seniors:** National Seniors Day on October 1<sup>st</sup> could be used to visit a senior, look at old photographs and listen to the stories they tell, volunteer at a senior centre or cook an old family recipe with the seniors in your life.

**Widowed:** Does your parish host sessions for grief counseling such as Grief Journey ([griefjourney.com](http://griefjourney.com))? Are there other programs your parish uses that you could share?

**Separated, Divorced:** The *Annulments Today, Merciful and Just* brochure is written in plain language and is available from the national website ([cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca)) for distribution to members and possibly in your parish with the approval of your spiritual advisor.

## Vocations

Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> is the feast day of St. Charles Borromeo, the patron saint of bishops, catechists, cardinals, seminarians and spiritual leaders. Has your council offered a mass for someone who might need encouragement?

Also look for resources for World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life on Thursday, February 2, 2023, and for World Day of Prayer for Vocations on Sunday, April 30, 2023.