

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE



DATE February 1, 2016
Communique # 1

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

TO: Diocesan Chairpersons of Christian Family Life
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Christian Family Life (for information)

FROM: Gladys B., Provincial Chairperson of Christian Family Life
ATT: Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairpersons

Dear Sisters in the League:

“Be Merciful like the Father” is the motto of this Holy Year.

Vocations: Prayers for vocations should be encouraged by all the faithful of the Catholic Church in the Province of Alberta. There is a need for more young men to become priests and serve the people of God. In the Diocese of Edmonton, the C.W.L. has had the project “Adopt-a-Seminarian” for several years. Seminarians who wish to be adopted by a council give their name to the Edmonton Diocesan Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairperson and then that list is parcelled out among councils at the Fall Meeting. This past year all of the seminarians were adopted by councils and are given support by way of prayers, financial support and visitations to the councils who have adopted them. Continue to pray for the young men.

Sanctity of Life

What is Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide? Euthanasia patients are given an injection to end their life whereas Assisted Suicide occurs when the individuals take the medication themselves. Life should not end like this. In different parts of the world, assisted suicide is available to parents for children with disabilities. Canadians, at all stages in life, should have access to high quality palliative care and it should be governed under the provincial health plans. All Canadians will be at risk if physician-assisted dying is allowed, but most especially the vulnerable in society: the elderly, the disabled and those suffering from mental illness, and most common

nowadays, cancer patients. Everywhere you go, the word cancer comes up and it is very unfortunate that we hear of so many individuals with this type of illness. Society is trying to reduce the stigma attached to dementia, (dementia is harmful to the person with this as well as the family members) depression and other mental illnesses.

As you are aware, at its most recent national convention, The Catholic Women's League of Canada adopted Resolution 2015.04 **Invoke Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the Case of Carter v. Canada** to allow the federal government sufficient time to deal with the issue of physician-assisted living. The government needs to consult thoroughly with Canadians before enacting any legislation to deal with this serious issue. As of January 15, 2016, the Supreme Court of Canada gave a four-month extension. It exempted Quebec and it granted Superior Court judges the right to approve deaths. As well in January of 2016, the Supreme Court heard a request from the federal government for a six month extension to legislate on euthanasia and assisted suicide in Canada. The federal government suggested that Quebec should be exempted from the extension to allow them to institute their own euthanasia law. The first euthanasia death has occurred in the province of Quebec and apparently there has been another request where end of life care will be provided.

Declaration of Hope: a project of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. The declaration clearly states what we support and what we oppose and proposes a positive position to deal with euthanasia and assisted suicide. There is a letter on the website <<http://declarationofhope.ca/>> that should be read by all, signed and submitted automatically online, or send a paper copy to "Declaration of Hope." The address is "Declaration of Hope" P.O. Box 25033, London Ontario N6C 6A8; or e-mail your comments and support to <info@epcc.ca>. The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition <www.epcc.ca> would like you sign on the "Declaration of Hope" and this would send a voice to the government.

Euthanasia Declaration: a project of Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. The CCCC and CWL national encourages all CWL members to sign the Declaration on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide at <www.euthanasiadeclaration.ca>.

With One Heart, One Voice, One Mission, let the Members of the Alberta Mackenzie Catholic Women's League become aware of the needs of others who may not have a voice and advocate for the needs of others.

Gladys B.
Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chair
ABMK Provincial CWL Council