

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Council
Christian Family Life Communiqué #2014-2

April 26, 2014

To: All Parish Council Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairs
From: Mary A., Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Christian Family Life Chairperson

Hello to my sisters in the League,

Marriage and Family Life

The *Executive Handbook* for the Christian Family Life standing committee chair reminds us that “The path toward the future passes through the family.” The Catholic Church has always promoted the importance of family values, and in the Pastoral Constitution (Second Vatican Council) a whole chapter is dedicated to promotion of the dignity of marriage and the family which is referred to as “the very foundation of society.” (*The family is identified as the place of a profound solidarity between husbands and wives, between parents and children.*) The social and spiritual crisis we are experiencing in today's world is becoming a pastoral challenge in the Church's evangelizing mission concerning the family. The subject is so important that the Holy Father has called for a Synod of Bishops, which is to have a two-staged itinerary: 1) an Extraordinary General Assembly in 2014, intended to define the “*status quaestionis*” and to collect the bishops' experiences and proposals in proclaiming and living the Gospel of the Family in a credible manner; and 2) an Ordinary General Assembly in 2015 to seek working guidelines in the pastoral care of the person and the family. A Preparatory Document entitled “Pastoral Challenges To The Family In The Context Of Evangelization” is accessible on the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council website: www.cwl.ab.ca.

In her April 14, 2014 memo to all Parish Chairpersons of Christian Family Life, our National Christian Family Life Chair, Margaret Ann J., offers the following prayer:

Prayer for the Family
Loving God, bless our family.
Keep each of us in your tender care and protect us from every evil.
May we continue to grow in love and peace,
ever seeking to do your will with kindness and mutual respect.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Sanctity of Life

The National March for Life 2014 takes place on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Thursday May 8th. Please google “National March for Life” which will take you to Campaign Coalition Life's website. Click on to “brochures” to access the complete listing of activities for the event. This year the theme is RU-4LIFE with a special mission to prevent the abortion pill RU-486 from entering Canada. This is an issue that the League raised many years ago when members were asked to urge the federal government to reject any proposals from pharmaceutical companies to manufacture or distribute RU-486 in Canada.

For information and resource materials that may be helpful to you in this standing committee, I also suggest “The Christian Family Life Study Kit” available from National Office (can be downloaded from <www.cwl.ca>) and “The Catholic Organization for Life and Family” which has a number of brochures as well as other valuable information on family at <www.colf.ca>.

May God Bless You and Keep You as you continue your work for God & Canada,

Mary