The Catholic Women’s League of Canada

St. Catharines Diocesan Council

Christian Family Life Standing Committee

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

“By reason of their dignity and mission, Christian parents have the specific responsibility of educating their children in prayer, introducing them to gradual discovery of the mystery of God and to personal dialogue with Him.” Pope John Paul 11

The first official day of fall is Friday September 22 at 20:02 and how ironic it is that ‘summer’ only literally began after the Labour Day Weekend! Sun filled, precipitation free days have been a joyful, belated blessing for us all. I am truly delighted to be your Diocesan Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairperson and I look forward to personally meeting each one of the Christian Family Life Parish Council chairpersons over my two year term. Please note that, I am available to you if you need any assistance.

**Bishop Pappin Memorial Bursary**: Bishop Bernard Pappin was the Provincial Spiritual Advisor when he passed away suddenly in 1998. In his memory a bursary fund was established to provide bursaries to give financial support to seminarians studying for a diocese in Ontario. In 2017, sixteen applications were received and ten bursaries of $500 each will be awarded to those returning to seminary in the fall. Since the fund is solely financed by donations from CWL councils, all councils across Ontario are encouraged to donate to this fund to assist our seminarians. Donations can be sent to the provincial treasurer, Patricia Rivest. Please contact me for further details if needed. I have attached a prayer for ‘Vocations’ by Pope Francis.

**Parenting Tools:** Roseanne Sogan the past Ontario Provincial Chairperson of Christian Family Life attended a Parenting Workshop. The leader of the workshop shared the acronyms ‘STOP’ and ‘LOVE’. I suggest that you share this with your parish council members and encourage them to consider using these strategies with their children, grandchildren and children at church or in the community.

* **S-**Step back. Calm your emotions and comfort yourself.
* **T-**Take a few long, deep, calming breaths.
* **O-**Observe your emotional, physical and spiritual needs.
* **P-**Proceed with LOVE
* **L-**Listen to yourself and to your child; listen patiently, with full attention
* **O-**Observe your child and what is happening around them.
* **V-**Validate your child’s feelings; show and tell them that you love and accept them no matter what they say or do.
* **E-**Enjoy playing, laughing and having fun together as often as you can.

“And for us, this ‘arise, look, hope’ is called ‘dreaming’. We are grandparents called upon to dream and to give our dream to the youth of today: they are in need of it because they will take from our dreams the strength to prophesy and to go ahead in their task.” Pope Francis encouraged his audience at his 25th ordination by his words.

**Life Chain:** Life Chain is a pro-life social movement organization, one of the largest in America. This year’s Life Chain will be held on Sunday October 1st in Niagara Falls on Lundy’s Lane at Prince Edward Ave., Highland Ave. and Dorchester Ave at 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. For further details please go to [www.lifechain.net](http://www.lifechain.net) or contact Amanda Hendriks at 905 9415567. Please encourage members to attend this peaceful rally.

**Generational Spiritual Healing Seminar 2017:** Will be held at Gethsemane Retreat Centre, Wellandport on November 4-5th. This healing seminar will be led by Father Bill Trusz from the Hamilton Diocese. Attendees will learn to pray effectively to be healed of stubborn, personal and familial problems. Plan to attend and encourage council members and your church community to attend this spiritually enriching weekend seminar. Please see attached flyer for further details.

**Other attached flyers:** ‘Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun in Fatima’ and ‘Experience God’s Healing Power’ at Gethsemane Ministries.

I look forward to working with you over my two year term and hearing about the dedicated work you are doing in your parish council and community.

May our Lady of Good Counsel guide your work and may her beloved son, Jesus, fill you with His grace and shower you with abundant blessings.

Angela Carrier

Respectfully submitted