**EDUCATION AND HEALTH**

**Diocesan Standing Committee Chair- Ethel O’Brien**

**Subcommittee members**:

**HEALTH**

Good evening Father Richard and all of the Ladies of the Diocesan C.W.L.. My first report is to introduce our Provincial Health & Education Standing Committee Chairperson Wilma Vanderzwaag. Wilma is married to Robert, he has been extremely supportive as she has taken on various positions at the Parish & Diocesan level. In the past Wilma has taken on Provincial Community Life Standing Chair before her recent role. Wilma has two adult children, one married & living in Sudbury & one living in Ottawa. Somehow she still finds time to work part time at Meridian Credit Union. So if you have any health information or articles that you might feel we should address as C.W.L. members both Wilma and I would appreciate you sharing them.

Now a reminder to all of us June 2018 there will be a Provincial Election. It is not only important that we vote but we need to be active in discerning which candidate to support. We need to find ways to speak to all party candidates about his/her views on Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide, & Palliative Care. Maybe ask such direct questions like ... Would you support Government funded Hospices and Palliative Care units? (s we certainly are in need of more!! If not may I ask how you would feel if someone suggested Euthanasia or Assisted Suicide for one of your family members?! Also let us ask the Good Lord to give us His guidance to ask the right questions to help these Candidates stop and think about how precious the gift of life is.

**EDUCATION**

This summer we held a variety of camps at different locations within our Niagara Catholic District School Board. The students participated in different types of modules around life skills, active living and general interests with a central theme of numeracy & literacy. Also during the summer various schools within the school board had renovations (St. Paul High School N.F., Notre Dame College School Welland, & Our Lady of Fatima Elementary School St. Catharines). Then this school year started September 5th 2017 with a new St. Martin’s Catholic Elementary School in Smithville opening it’s doors. Again looking at Provincial Candidates it is essential that we inquire as to his or her views about publically funded Catholic Education!!

*“A smile is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and an antidote for trouble.”*

~ Author Unknown