



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
London Diocesan Council



To: All London Diocesan Presidents, and Christian Family Life Chairpersons
CC: London Diocesan Council; OPC Christian Family Life Chairperson
From: Denise Lalonde Morris
Date: March, 2021

"Jesus help me to see you in every person I meet!"

Three years ago I took on the role of the Christian Family Life Chairperson. It was easy to fulfill the above request. I have met and learned about ladies from all walks of life who became engaged, educated and empowered to make our "**Common Home**" a better place.

Throughout my term I have encouraged everyone to pray and calling on the Holy Spirit for guidance. This could be done alone, with your family or in groups. You could form a small prayer group, send a message via snail mail or a text, or use the good old fashion way and pick up the telephone and call someone to pray together.

At the beginning of my term I was guided by the works of Pope Francis. His book "Amoris Laetitia" -The Joy of Love encompasses many of the ministries of Christian Family Life especially Marriage and Family, Sanctity of Life and the Divorced and Separated .

We are also inspired by another of his works "Laudato Si" which became the national theme "Care for Our Common Home". Our councils were encouraged to provide our grandparents, parents, disabled, widowed, divorced, separated and youth with the knowledge to reduce waste, preserve fresh water and protect our forests and natural habitats

Our next focus was the alleviation of Loneliness. Our Pope and our Bishops asked us to get out of our comfort zones and spread the "Good News". This meant to reach out to those less fortunate (not just the homeless but anyone even your next door neighbour) by extending a hand to lift a person up with something as easy as a smile and a hello, to putting food in their stomachs and clothes on their backs. To accomplish this mission H.U.G. - (Helping, Understanding, Giving) became a big focus for our councils. At the yearly regional days we donated large quantities of numerous gifts to help many families cope with adverse times.

Just as we began educating our members to the benefits of Compassionate Community Care the Covid -19 pandemic arrived with an overwhelming wave of despair. Even though we were thrown a curve ball our sisters in league dug into their bag of tricks and found ways to communicate with each other without sacrificing safety. Bishop Fabro shut us down but 20th Century technology came to the rescue and our lives began to be joined by Go to Meeting, Microsoft team and Zoom. This was all fine if you have computer savvy but not so nice to those not connected. This is where many were encouraged to get on the phone and reach out, a email became a card, a handshake became a wave and many of us have developed detective powers trying to figure out who is behind that mask! Thus learning to smile with our eyes.

To help change things at National I was a member of the Task force that addressed the grave problem of not being able to meet in person for elections. The proposed amendment was sent on to National and is addressed in the request to vote in your councils for a change which will be completed by Spring 2022.

This past January, 2021 with the collaboration of the Community Life Chair ,the Regional Chairs, and Alex and Genevieve Schadenberg we delivered a two session workshop on training for Community Compassionate Care. All regions participated and judging by the number of { My Story} requests that have been put in we were successful in getting out the message.

F.Y.I

- **BILL C-7** in the final reading, you need to get in touch with you M.P. the premier ,and the Prime Minister to stop this tragedy
- Any initiative that we have promoted one year does not mean it cannot be continued longer i.e. H.U.G.
- **My Story** is not just for this year. There will always be someone you can contact. Have you thought of using your local high school girls to interview their Grandmothers or aunts or maybe their own mothers. What a beautiful way to bring seniors together with our youth!

At this time, I would like to thank everyone I have worked with and all the wonderful people I have met for enhancing my life. We have faced many challenges these past years, and I have been able to travel with some of the most generous and considerate sisters in the League. I would not change this experience for anything. Hoping to see you in the near future.

Remember'' Jesus always has time for you, may you always take time for him''

Our Lady of Good Counsel, bless and keep you safe!

Denise Lalonde Morris

Directive:

March 2021