

August 29, 2020

Adoption in B.C.

Looking for 1,000 saints for 1,000 little souls: Did you know that are 1,000 children in British Columbia looking for forever homes? These children are currently in foster homes. All of us need to encourage Catholic couples to adopt these children. Our daughter and her husband adopted 5 children from one family. These children are really thriving. They now have a secure Catholic home provided by parents who love, discipline, and cherish them. The CWL could make a huge difference in securing forever homes for these children aged 6 years and older. I challenge all members to pray, sacrifice and get the word out in our parishes about these precious children. We are here to make a positive difference in people's lives. This is a very concrete way to do this!" Catherine L'Heureux.

Thank you, Catherine for calling our attention to this pressing issue.

Adoption in B.C. is governed by a provincial law called the Adoption Act.

When somebody adopts a child, that person takes on all the parental rights and responsibilities that birth parents have.

In B.C., other than the 1,000 children in foster care waiting to be adopted into a permanent family, there are over 9,000 children in care, and another 1,000 children waiting for a temporary home to become available.

The following websites cover what is needed to know about the basic process of adoption:

- www.adopt.gov.bc.ca: this website explains ways to adopt in BC and the steps of the adoption process.
- www.bcfosterparents.ca : it includes information about what one needs to know about adopting BC kids.
- www.bcadoption.com is the website for the Adoptive Families Association of BC (AFABC) and provides online education for adoption support to families.

October 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of Foster Family Month in B.C.

Family Violence:

COVID-19 home isolation has led to increase in abuse and family violence.

Violence Against Women (VAW) in relationships is a power gender abuse crime, usually by a one partner, directed at a female partner. At the centre of violent relationships is a pattern of power and control.

Myth vs. Reality in Violence against Women (VAW):

M: VAW is a 'women's issue'

R: It is a human right issue that affects everyone.

M: VAW is a “private matter” or “family issue”

R: It is a systemic problem

Women all over the world have similar experiences of violence

M: Each partner is equally responsible for the problem

R: Abusers are 100% responsible for the problem.

Websites to visit to become better informed about this issue:

Ending Violence Association of BC:

www.endingviolence.org

Family Violence Intervention Program:

www.vahs.life/family-violence-program

offers an 8-week intervention program about family violence.

Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW): www.wavaw.ca

This website covers many areas and has links for specific problems related to family violence.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us in our journey of Faith, Service and Social Justice.

Blanca Stead

Chairperson of Christian Family Life