

November 11, 2021

“Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.” (St. John Paul II)

On this Remembrance Day, I thought this was an appropriate quotation, and meditation. May we always give thanks to those who went before us in the battle for our freedom.

RESOLUTION 2019.01 ACTION REQUEST

Dorothy Johansen, National Chairperson of Christian Family Life, has asked us to write to the Prime Minister and to the Minister of Justice in support of this resolution: *Canada to Honour Its Commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*: Resolved, that the national council of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada, in 99th annual convention assembled, urges the federal government to honour its legal commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by providing legal protection to children before birth (my emphasis). Dorothy’s communique is on the national website at www.cwl.ca. She includes the action plan and contact information for the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice.

MINISTRY TO SENIORS AND TO WIDOWS

This past Sunday, two of the three readings were about widows. Historically, widows were the poorest of the poor, as they had no financial or social support. Even today, many widows are socially and financially disadvantaged. Add to that, the fact that men die earlier than women do leads to many more senior widows living alone.

As a widow myself, I know how it feels to go somewhere on my own. So many things are geared for couples. Even parish functions can be difficult as I have “no one to sit with”. I have learned to reach out to other single women and ask them to join me at different events.

The first few years after a loved one’s death are perhaps the hardest. Many parishes and dioceses have grief support groups. These groups help to provide support and structure to a life that may have been fractured by death. Many of these groups are led or sponsored by the CWL councils in the parish. Is this a program that your council can get involved in? Yes, it will take training for the group leaders. But it is a worthwhile effort.

Seniors generally, but women in particular, are easy targets for abuse—physical, verbal, emotional, spiritual and financial. There are many resources available in BC that provide help to both friends and family and to the individual who may be being abused. There is an excellent website: www.seniorsfirstbc.ca where these resources can be downloaded.

Most health authorities also have help lines with staff who will respond to reports of possible abuse and neglect of adults. As Christian women, we need to learn the possible signs of abuse and how to help our sisters when we suspect they are being abused.

YOUR INPUT IS APPRECIATED

This committee has a wide-ranging mandate. I would love to have your ideas and suggestions for what to include in my communiques. If anyone would like to help me in specific areas, please let me know. Also, let me know what your parish councils are doing regarding our mandate. Who knows, some other parishes might borrow your ideas!

RESOURCES

Christian Family Life Study Kit---Available through the National Website (www.cwl.ca)
National Pro-Life brochure---Part of the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care (www.cwl.ca) There is also a postcard that you can send to your MP and MLA available.

A final thought from St. Theresa of Avila:

Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you. All things pass. God does not change. Patience achieves everything.

May our lady of Good Counsel bless us all.