

Date: September 12, 2022

Education & Health Communiqué 2021-2023/5

ENCLOSURES: National Bursary Application Form
National Health Care Week Toolkit

My friends in Christ,

What a blessing to gather together in Kelowna for the 102nd National Convention! It was such a wonderful time to be refreshed spiritually by the beautiful liturgies, speakers and reports. Exciting times as we move forward with the Strategic Plan focusing on the Core Values of Faith, Service and Social Justice.

I am happy to introduce to you the new Education and Health Chairpersons in our province:

Pat Tresierra – Kamloops

Susan Steiner – Prince George

Paula Stewart – Vancouver

Welcome back to:

Michelle Eveson – Nelson

Barbara Strong – Victoria

Whitehorse – vacant, our thanks to Carol Vanderbyl for passing on information

NATIONAL CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE WEEK – OCTOBER 2-8, 2022

We will celebrate **National Catholic Health Care Week** in Canada the week of October 2-8th. This year's theme is **Building Bridges**. This week 'seeks to **build** understanding, connection and trust about our mission and contribution as a Catholic health community in Canada's pandemic response.' The *Catholic Health Alliance of Canada* (www.chac.ca) has a Tool Kit that I have attached for your use during this week of celebration. From their website, "At the heart of Catholic health care is a deep respect for the intrinsic value and dignity of every human being and an unwavering commitment to serving all people, from all backgrounds and faiths – especially society's most vulnerable." Sound familiar??? Very similar to what members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada do every day! Perhaps this would be a great week to donate blood at the many clinics that Canadian Blood Services has set up around the country. (My appointment is on October 4th!) Remember the **League Partner ID is CATHO11269** and we have an ongoing commitment to provide 200 donations of blood this year! Anyone over the age of 17 can donate and they are always in need; grab a friend and give what's in you to give!

NATIONAL BURSARY – CHANGE IN CRITERIA

The National Bursary, established in 1988 from two generous donations, is awarded each year dependent on the number of qualified applicants, the interest generated from the fund and donations received. It is used to assist members (in at least their 3rd consecutive year of membership in the League) who are pursuing courses, seminars, studies, conferences, workshops in the areas of adult faith formation, literacy tutoring, ministry to patients in palliative care, ministry to shut-ins, parliamentary procedure, youth ministry, spiritual growth. An addition has been added to the criteria: **education**

toward a nursing degree. The deadline to apply remains the same, **May 15th**. The bursary application/criteria can be found on the national website, www.cwl.ca under the 500 Series: Forms and clicking on item 552. I have also attached this form for your convenience and to pass it on to your members.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:

- (i) **Catholic schools and catechesis:** School started less than a week ago, 2 ½ years into the pandemic. There is a beautiful article in the September issue of *Living with Christ* by Richard Olson, *The Catholic Educator as Catechist: Reflections on the New Directory for Catechesis* (Toronto, Novalis, 2021), pp. 17-22. Some quotes from the article: “The Catholic teacher, like all Christians, is on a journey of faith that began with baptism and continues each day with the invitation to enter more deeply into a relationship with the person of Jesus in the life of the church.” “Catholic teachers help initiate children into the mystery of the faith.” “Teachers have the power to be impactful witnesses, memory keepers, and companions.” “While not all the work of the Catholic teacher is formally catechetical, the foundation of the work is missionary and evangelical – rich soil for leading children into a deeper relationship with Jesus.” Please keep our Catholic schools, teachers, administrators, support workers and students in your daily prayers.
- (ii) **Rites of Christian Initiation:** Many RCIA programs will be starting up again in parishes. RCIA is the process in which adults become full, participating members of the Catholic Church. Perhaps check if your parish offers this program and encourage someone you know, who may be interested in Catholicism, to enter into this journey of faith.

On this Feast day of the *Most Holy Name of Mary*, may we celebrate this special day of devotion, giving Our Mother the respect she so deserves. **Mary** is a name of honour, a most holy name, a maternal name and “Mary is a name of the mother who responds to all of our needs, protects us from evil, and prays ‘for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.’”(www.catholicstraightanswers.com)

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you always,

Respectfully submitted,

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