

Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada
Spring Zoom Meeting, March 6, 2021, Oral Report
Sheila Bielawski, Education and Health Chair

This has been a trying year for both students and teachers. Students have been challenged socially by being separated from friends and fellow students and academically because of on-line learning, which some found very difficult. Teachers have had to teach students in their classroom while also providing virtual lessons for those who chose to stay at home and for all students during times of lockdown.

Catholic Education Week will be held this year from May 2nd to 7th. The theme is "Nurturing Hope" and it attempts to highlight the partnership that remains the foundation of Catholic education between our local Catholic Schools and local Catholic Parishes. I know that some of our councils do not have a Catholic school in their area but your prayers for continued Catholic Education are greatly appreciated.

The National Bursary Fund is available to provide members with financial assistance while pursuing studies in: spiritual growth, adult faith formation, youth ministry, and ministry to patients in palliative care, ministry to shut-ins, parliamentary procedure and literacy tutoring. For criteria and application information, refer to item #552 on the League website.

We are still in the clutches of the Corona Virus and we must continue to follow the guidelines as set down by the various Health Units, which states, WEAR MASKS, social distance and wash hands frequently. There is however hope in the future with the emergence of a vaccine. In his last newsletter 'Priests for Life Canada' Father John Lemire tells us that some voices have "chosen to manipulate not only the truth but the rich and clear teaching of the church on the issue of the vaccine. Somehow they have placed themselves above the wisdom of the church and the consistent teaching of the Magisterium". He also states that, "we need to listen to the wisdom and sound teaching of the church and avail ourselves of the vaccine. It is morally acceptable to receive the COVID-19 vaccine".

In the February On-Line newsletter from the provincial Council, Betsy Currier has an interesting article reminding us not to ignore the standard screening tests that are available to each of us and how they can make a difference in our well-being and our future.