

**Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Annual Meeting of Members, May 13, 2023, Oral Report**  
**Donna Provost, Christian Family Life Chair**

*"Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another"*

John 13:34

Christian Family Life is all about living out our faith and Christian values. Our Catholic faith teaches us that we must love one another as ourselves. That is a very important statement. Think about it. 'Love one another as ourselves'. Loving myself was and is still very difficult for me. Years ago my husband and myself attended a 'Marriage Encounter' weekend. A poster on a wall hit me hard when I read it. It said God doesn't make junk! Since then I have been working hard to learn to love myself because I want to love others as God wishes me to do. If I do not love me, I cannot possibly love others in the way that God asks us to.

Under the umbrella of Christian Family Life: Marriage and Family, Sanctity of Life, Ministry to youth, disabled, seniors, widowed, separated, divorced and Vocations. All of these are important. CWL ladies are very supportive of them all especially the National March for Life in Ottawa, opposing medical assistance in dying and supporting Palliative Care in our communities. The CWL and Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops websites give good information on all these issues.

In National chairperson Dorothy Johansen's Memo of April 11 she brings our attention to World Youth Day. This international gathering of young people aged 14-30 takes place from August 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. This festival of faith is where youth from all walks of life and countries meet and experience the love of God through prayer, singing, celebration and discovery and have the opportunity to be in the presence of Pope Francis. The Pembroke Diocese has six young people preparing to attend. The cost per person is \$3,600 and each young person is responsible to raise that amount. Please support this group in any way you are able such as financial and most especially by prayer. The Pembroke group plan to remain to visit and pray in Fatima before returning home. What a life changing trip for these young people. Our Provincial theme says, Go Make a Difference and these young people will do just that!

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you in your endeavors.

Respectfully submitted