

**Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada
Fall Meeting, Our Lady of Sorrows, Petawawa, October 28, 2023, Oral Report
Donna Provost, Christian Family Life Chair**

Love is the reason behind everything God does.

Christian Family Life is where our children learn all about living out our faith and Christian values. As Catholic women we try to give our family the example of God's love for them. We care for and nurture our family unit to the best of our ability. Our hope is as they grow and mature and go out into the world we have given them the skills they need to live a life in which they are an asset to their family and community. We hope that they will grow in faith and feel the love that God has for them.

As I have spoken to many women their lament is that their children have turned away from regular church attendance and may even say they do not believe. This is a heartache for many mothers. My only answer is pray. Each one of us has free will which was a gift from God. Keep giving the good example of our faith to them and keep praying. Above all keep loving them.

In the Fall issue of The League magazine Christian Family Life Chair, Dorothy Johansen wrote that in some provinces, an increase in spending for palliative care was recorded, but it was discovered that the medical care code for medical assistance in dying (MAID) was the same code used for palliative care. I was informed of that fact at a Palliative Care meeting recently and our group was shocked that this was the case. This is the codes that the doctors use to collect funding from the province.

She went on to report that of the 10 countries in the world that allow MAID, Canada has the most progressive regime. While the offering of MAID to people with mental illness has been granted a short reprieve for implementation, members need to continue to advocate for providing good palliative care and less MAID to everyone and for palliative care facilities to be allowed to abstain from providing this procedure.

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) is no longer a temporary voluntary fund under national council. This does not mean councils no longer support EPC. It means that members know enough about it to send money directly. Please consider supporting EPC or organizations that provide training, education or advocacy for palliative care and for ending MAID. Dorothy continues by asking us to consider which palliative care facilities are nearest to you and to determine how your council can best support their efforts.

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

Respectfully submitted