

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE ANNUAL REPORT 2016. Nova Scotia Provincial Council
ONE VOICE, ONE HEART, ONE MISSION.
"Together We Serve"

The new report results were 13 reports from Halifax-Yarmouth Diocese and 15 reports from the Antigonish Diocese. Some councils had difficulties with the new format but that should work out in the future. It was really interesting reading over the inputs from each diocese.

The Christian Family Life chair in each parish is a busy and fulfilling one. It touches almost every aspect of parish life and as such should hold a high priority in your council. The following report will showcase all that has been accomplished during the past year.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY:

Programs for family enrichment were promoted. Celebrations for milestone wedding anniversaries. Gifts were given to newlyweds. Recognition on Mother's Day and Father's Day. Receptions were held for couples renewing their wedding vows. The special roles Mothers and Fathers have in the family were recognized and celebrated by councils.

SANCTITY OF LIFE:

Some councils hold memberships in Pro-Life groups. Members took part in annual Life-chain in October and local pro-life walks. Took part in 12 hours of Prayer for Palliative care. Participated in World Day of Prayer in March.

Momentary donations given to Campaign Life, Euthanasia Prevention, COLF, and especially Palliative Care. Reviewed past Sanctity of life resolutions and wrote letters of concern.

One council prays the Pro-Life Rosary each Friday prior to morning mass. Some took part in programs and Prayers to support Life from natural birth to natural death. Guest speakers were invited to meetings. Members attended talks on Euthanasia, Palliative care. One council invited Sister Kenny to speak. Another Mr. Gerry MacLissac from the Carey Me Foundation. This foundation provides palliative care in homes and assists with the expenses for respite care, medical supplies and medications.

Youth

Young people are the future of our church. They must be encouraged to be a vital part of the church and included as much as possible. In many parishes the youth are well represented. They are readers, altar servers, choir, and are also included in social activities. Councils support programs such as Net Ministries, Steubenville Atlantic, and Catechesis. Many councils supported students attending World Youth Day in Poland. Councils present gifts and provide receptions for religious education classes. Councils support shelters and programs for at risk youth, Phoenix House and other facilities. The councils are fully involved with the youth in their parishes.

Disabled/Challenged

Disabled men and women are encouraged to be part of Liturgical celebrations. Reach out through phone calls, provide food and transportation, send cards and bring the Eucharist to those home bound. Some councils provide respite care. Most councils provide outreach programs in the community. Hope Cottage, Marguerite House.

Seniors:

That means ministry to ourselves as the majority of our councils are made up of seniors. Some councils provide a senior social once a month, send cards to the sick. Remember them at Christmas time and their birthday. Check to see if they are receiving communion at home. Gift some with free membership. Send out a newsletter keeping them up to date. Some are provided with transportation. Seniors are included as much as possible in CWL events so they will feel connected. Many councils visit hospitals, nursing homes and senior citizens residences. They participate in mass and prayer services.

Widowed/ Separated/ Divorced

Saying prayers at the funeral homes, offering receptions and follow up visits, sending mass cards to grieving families, arranging memorial services. Widows and widowers are often invited to take part in CWL celebrations. Some councils present prayer shawls and encourage them to attend bereavement programs. The CWL see that they are invited to attend community events. Several councils have initiated education awareness of **Resolution 1996.03 Advanced Directives for Health Care and durable power of attorney. Also Resolution 1999.01 Elder Abuse/ Assault Awareness.**

Councils generally have not focused on separated and divorced persons other than invitations to group outings or one to one support.

Vocations:

Vocations throughout the country need attention. Councils offer prayers for vocations, celebrate their priests, deacons, remember important dates birthday, ordination and also the date they arrived in your parish. Some members invited religious people into their homes for a meal. Some councils have adopted seminarians, hosted lunches for priests and religious, participated in prayer for vocations support priest retirement funds, supported discernment events for youth. One council supported a travelling chalice/ crucifix program. One member is a co-chair for the Vocation Awareness and Appreciation Committee.

The Christian Family Life chair after serving two years should have attained personal growth and spiritual renewal. Councils and members are to be congratulated on the great work they have accomplished during the past year. Well done good and faithful servants.

Theresa Duann
Christian Family Life Chair