



Hamilton Diocesan Council
of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Inspired by the Spirit — Women Respond to God's Call



Directive #3

Pages 4

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To: Council Presidents, Council Christian Family Life Chairs
From: Joyce Cotter, Hamilton Diocesan 2nd Vice President/Christian Family Life Chair
CC: Diocesan Officers, Committee members

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD

"Father, I thank you for blessing me with my family. I ask you to bring us into unity through You. I ask that anything that is hidden in darkness - to cause disunity - will be brought to light. I ask You to lead us into Your perfect truth and help us to be the family You intend us to be. Lord, help us to be a blessing to one another and to others. Reveal Yourself to us and let us come into agreement with You. Lead us in Your ways. Grant us compassionate hearts, fill us with Your love that does not keep records of wrong, and bring joy to our hearts when we think of one another. Bring Your perfect peace and unity into our family. In Jesus name I pray, Amen."

Raising morally healthy children today is very challenging. A Christian community is essential for good friendships for children, for reinforcing faith and morals, and for giving parents the encouragement they need to continue to go against the tide in raising their children to know, love, and serve God.

How can we as members of The Catholic Women's League create a supportive community for families and our youth? How can we help our youth have a personal relationship with Jesus? Community, like charity, begins at home. You start building a good neighbourhood when you yourself decide that you will be a good neighbour.

"Every child is a thought in the mind of God and our task is to recognize this thought and help it toward completion"
Eberhard Arnold

Young people search for meaning, for fulfillment in their lives. How can we as CWL members meet the needs of teenagers?

- a) Through good communication
- b) Encouragement and praise
- c) Accept and love them as individuals
- d) Seek to understand them
- e) By building friendships
- f) Relate to them as adults
- g) Act as mentors
- h) Create a safe and supportive environment
- i) By challenging them to greatness

To bridge communication with our youth: **INVITE**

I – Introduce

- Offer salutations to our youth
- Acknowledge their presence

N – Name

- Remember their name
- Call them by name

V- Value

- Listen attentively
- Let them express their opinions
- Make eye contact
- Non-judgemental attitude

I- Interest

- Show an interest in their activities
- Ask questions, build a rapport
- Listen to their doubts and concerns

T- Tribe

- Ask about their family and friends
- Meet their parents

E- Express

- Express a desire to see them again
- Pray for them



Teenagers need to spend time with other likeminded people. What opportunities can the League offer teenagers to create these moments of “affirming their faith”?

- ✓ Host events geared towards the youth i.e. movie night, games night, pizza night
- ✓ Ask teenagers to help with spiritual programs
- ✓ Sponsor teenagers to attend the Diocesan-wide “Youth Rally” on May 26, 2018 at C.Y.O. Camp Brebeuf, Rockwood check the Hamilton Diocesan website for more details
- ✓ Ask youth for ideas on social justice in their community
- ✓ Promote Leadership Camp through Catholic Youth Organization C.Y.O. at Camp Brebeuf or Camp Marydale July1 – July 6, 2018

Rooted in Catholic values and participating in the mission of the Church, the Catholic Youth Organization (C.Y.O.) serves children, teens and families through these programs and services:

- Provides training, resources and consultation to parish communities to assist in the development of Youth Ministry initiatives.
- Provides specific programs to children, teens and families in Youth Ministry, camping and athletics
- Provides Christian Leadership development programs for teens; and creates opportunities for teens to share these skills.
- Ensures that marginalized children, teens and families have access to all C.Y.O. programs and services

- ✓ Establish a Catholic Girls League in your parish

The Catholic Girls League is a Parish based/run initiative. The group will remain under the ministry of youth, reporting through the Parish Council's Christian Family Life chairperson and exist only at the Parish Council level. It is for girls aged 10 – 15:

- Unite the girls to achieve individual and collective spiritual development
- Promote social justice, recognizing human dignity of all people
- Promote lasting bonds of friendship through enjoyable programs
- Develop leadership qualities and skill

The Motto is “Faith, Friendship, Fun and Formation”

- ✓ Introduce youth to Catholic Youth Ministry Clubs -Challenge Girls or Conquest Club for boys <https://challengeyouthministry.com>

Challenge and Conquest are Catholic Youth Ministry programs for girls and boys in 5th – 12th grade to grown in knowledge of their Catholic faith, build friendship with Christ, and make a difference and positive impact on their families, friends and in the world around them.



- ✓ Encourage and support youth missionary work
- ✓ Invite guest speakers to speak on issues that concern youth i.e. cyberbullying, homelessness, violence in schools etc.
- ✓ Organize a "Day of Spirituality" or a weekend retreat for youth
- ✓ Advocate for "Youth Ministers" and a Kids Club in your parish
- ✓ Support school programs involving teenagers
- ✓ Plan a special event for the youth volunteers in your parish
- ✓ Encourage teens talents in art, sports, music, drama etc. by donating supplies or equipment needed

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." 3 John 1:4

"Children are our future, and the only way for the world to evolve, as I have been shown it should be, is for each generation to be more loving and compassionate than the one before. This is only possible if we support the children around us, and protect and encourage them. So they don't need to lock their love away." Lorna Byrne

Inspired by your Spirit!

Joyce Cotter