

**Timmins Diocesan Council**  
**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Communications Standing Committee, Frances Freeman**

to: Diocesan President, Spiritual Advisor, Chairpersons  
Parish Presidents, Communications Chairpersons  
Provincial Chairperson of Communications

Oct 2020

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*from Antoinette Dsouza- Provincial Communications Chairperson:*

**The Canadian League Magazine:** The fall edition will be delivered near the end of October. The theme for the fall issue is the League's 100 years of dedication and sisterhood. It will be slightly larger than normal so I pray all members will take the time to read and enjoy the content.

**Implementation Committee:** Review the updates on the national website [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca). for July and August. Have you encouraged your counterparts to view the new Welcome Program Video? It is awesome. These are exciting times! More volunteers will be needed to participate in working and focus groups, complete surveys and answer questionnaires. The committee will be reaching out for volunteers in February 2021 through the website, Facebook page and magazine, with new working groups forming in April 2021. In the meantime, prayer for courage to stay the course and for members to say "yes" to year three work! Are members God's hands and feet on earth? If so, how will they say yes? Have you invited them to participate?

The following resolutions dealing with pornography and related issues:

- 2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites
- 2004.11 Link Between Violent, Graphic Imagery and Aggressive Behaviour and the Mechanics of Killing
- 2002.11 Responsible Internet Use for Children
- 2000.06 Violence in Music Lyrics
- 2000.05 Violence on Television as It Relates to Children
- 1998.02 Deviant Sex Establishments/Businesses

Encourage members to act by hosting a letter writing campaign on one or more of the items above.

Here is an interesting article that I came across in the Fall 2020 Renaissance magazine titled “**How shall we greet one another now?**” by Jim Grieve

I have been thinking a good deal about the post-pandemic new normal. We will emerge slowly from this self-isolation, but how will we have been changed by the experience? Nobody I speak with expects that we will simply go back to how we operated before. For instance, we’ll need a new and sincere way to greet one another. In all cultures, family, friends and colleagues do this as a sign of recognition, affection, friendship and/or reverence. Depending on the occasion and the culture, that greeting may take the form of a handshake, a hug, a bow, a nod or cheek kisses. Seems to me, whether in business or familiar settings, we expect these practices to change.

The handshake, even when it morphed into the fist bump, is a serious potential way to exchange the virus, so it cannot remain a standard greeting. Meanwhile, some say hello to others with cheek kisses or big hugs, both of which have the same capacity for viral exchange. These customs, too, will need to disappear in a post-pandemic world if we are to remain safe.

But what can replace these familiar and traditional greetings?

- Do we move to the bow that is so revered in Japanese and other cultures?
- Do we look to Star Trek and adopt Spock’s Vulcan greeting — the V created by separating the middle and ring fingers — while saying, “Live long and prosper?”
- Do we use American Sign Language for a hug — arms crossed against the chest — which was made famous in the film Black Panther?

Maybe. But I have another idea.

The late Dr. Dan Offord, one of my mentors, developed and ran the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University. He was also the owner and operator of Christie Lake Kids summer camp for very special children in eastern Ontario. He always started his speeches, lectures or training sessions with the greeting, “How are the children?” Dr. Offord had heard this a lot when he worked in Africa. Adults greeted one another with these words, expressing a beautiful reverence for the potential of all children and for one another.

I loved that sentiment and adopted this greeting in my work with early-years professionals.

I also learned a lot from Indigenous leaders, who deeply respect and honour the role of the Elders in their communities, depending on them to convey the wisdom and language so essential to sustaining culture. Perhaps, in response to the tragedy that unfolded in Canada’s long-term care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic, we should ask every day, “How are the elders?”

Now, what if we put those two greetings together?

Don’t be surprised, when we next see each other, if I use a new greeting that is both a sincere welcome and a reminder of what is so precious in our lives: “How are the elders and the children?”

Stay safe, healthy and connected, Jim

*with permission from the Renaissance magazine RTO/ERO - Frances*

*from Antoinette Dsouza:*

**A PRAYER FOR JOURNALISTS**

St. Francis de Sales,  
Patron Saint of writers and journalists  
Almighty God,  
Strengthen and direct, we pray,  
the will of all whose work it is to write what many read,  
and to speak where many listen.  
May we be bold to confront evil and injustice:  
Understanding and compassionate of human weakness;  
Rejecting alike the half-truth which deceives,  
And the slanted word which corrupts.  
May the power, which is ours, for good or ill,  
Always be used with honesty and courage,  
With respect and integrity,  
So that when all here has been written, said and done,  
We may, unashamed, meet Thee face to face.  
Amen

<https://www.marquette.edu/faith/prayer-for-journalists.php>

May Our Lady of Good Counsel watch over and guide us in our  
League work and decisions.