

TDC 2022.01 – Promoting a Holistic Parish-Based Theology of the Body Lifestyle and Procreation Teachings

1 **Resolved,** That the Toronto Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in its
2 101st annual convention assembled requests that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB),
3 the Catholic Organization of Life and Family (COLF), the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute
4 (CCBI), and the Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC), develop, establish, and promote a
5 holistic parish-based model of the Theology of the Body (TOB) and Natural Family Planning (NFP) that
6 can be implemented in all Canadian parishes and be it further,
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8 **Resolved,** That this resolution be forwarded through The Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic
9 Women's League of Canada at its 75th Annual Convention assembled to the National Council of The
10 Catholic Women's League of Canada for consideration at its 102nd Annual National Convention
11 assembled.
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23 Gifted by St. Timothy Council, North York, North York Region

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1 Brief:

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3 For some time, Canadian Legislation affecting human life in areas of abortion and euthanasia has
4 conflicted with the Catholic Church’s tradition of advocacy for the sanctity of life (Collier,
5 Haliburton 187-8), (Nicol, Tiedemann). St. Paul VI’s Encyclical Humanae Vitae, St. John Paul
6 II’s lectures on Theology of the Body (TOB), Pope Benedict XVI’s Encyclical Deus Caritas Est
7 and the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia have promoted the TOB lifestyle
8 and procreation Natural Family Planning (NFP). All have guided Catholics towards an
9 understanding of how attention to the spiritual dimension of sexuality and procreation contribute
10 to their whole person health and well- being. The Catholic Women’s League of Canada continues
11 to address the Objects of the League, and Sanctity of Life. In addition, the new Strategic Plan
12 affirms these actions and encourages collaboration with Catholic organizations to advocate for
13 Sanctity of Life initiatives (National CWL Strategy Report).

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15 In 2011, the Canadian Conference Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) and the Catholic Organization for
16 Life and Family (COLF) issued a national pastoral initiative that emphasized how the TOB “is the
17 Holy Spirit’s solution to many of the problems which confront us” (CCCCB 7). They mandated that
18 all marriage preparation courses be based on St John Paul II’s TOB and that national NFP
19 programs be made available to couples (CCCCB 12).

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21 NFP is recognized in the Catechism of the Catholic Church as an approved approach to regulating
22 procreation (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2368 - 2370).

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24 Dr. Bridget Champion of Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute (CCBI) clarifies that TOB and NFP
25 are understood under Catholic sexual ethics (Champion). Canadian TOB offerings are based on
26 Christopher West’s life span work and parts are adapted for presentation in some parishes and also
27 in Catholic schools (West). Although TOB concepts are integrated throughout the Fully Alive
28 curriculum, NFP is only offered to Grade 12 students (Ontario Ministry of Education). Also, some
29 provinces no longer have Catholic Education.

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31 Through establishing a collaborative national dialogue with the CCCC, COLF, and Catholic
32 health organizations, services and individuals, The Catholic Women’s League of Canada could
33 facilitate the development and promotion of a holistic parish-based model of TOB and Procreation
34 (NFP) that can be implemented in all Canadian parishes.

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Action Plan TDC 2022.01:

National Council Level of the Catholic Women's League of Canada

1. For sub-committee with representation from the appropriate CWL committee Chairs
2. Invite representation from the Canadian Catholic Council of Bishops, The Catholic Organization for Life and The Family and appropriate Catholic organizations and services to be a part of the collaborative national dialogues.
3. Host strategy sessions for the development and promotion of a parish-based model of Theology of the Body and Procreation Natural Family Planning teachings that could potentially be delivered in all Canadian parishes.

Provincial Council Level of the Catholic Women's League of Canada

4. At the timely direction of the National subcommittee, each provincial CWL council would prepare to pilot in agreed upon Diocese(s) and parish(s) the model developed, monitor its progress and provide feedback.

Parish Council Level of the Catholic Women's League of Canada

5. Inform members/parishes/regions of this resolution and its intent and consider offering to take leadership as a parish council on piloting implementation of the parish-based model of Theology of the Body and Procreation / Natural Family Planning teachings.

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