

Ottawa Diocesan Catholic Women's League  
September 2011  
Communique #1  
Education and Health Chair  
Joanna Sisk





Catholic Education:

The Ottawa Catholic School Board budget provide for 2011-2012 enrolment of 36,500 students. Please keep them and all educators in your prayers.

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I had the privilege of attending on your behalf two school board meetings under the accompaniment of past Education and Health Chair Michelle Morrow in June 2011. They were the Catholic Education Foundation of Ottawa and the Emergency Response Fund. Both of them are made up of School Board staff, Trustees, representatives for the Archdiocese of Ottawa, Knights of Columbus, C.W.L. and Student Trustees. Programs are in support of “Helping to Alleviate Poverty Program in the School” campaign. Some challenges are related to but not exclusive to mental and physical disabilities, drug and alcohol addiction, cultural assimilation and illiteracy. These programs are not presently funded by Ontario Ministry of Education or other school resources. Some of the requests are for Abuse counselling, Tutors in the classroom, reading Success Coaches, Mentoring Programs, Chess for all, learn to skate/swim etc.

The Emergency Response Fund from Sept 2010 – May 2011 granted to over 440 students and families funding for a wide variety of basic needs such as: medication, glasses, rent, food, uniforms, and transportation. During June July and August emergency request continue to come in. There is some fund raising done through a Gala dinner, Concerts and Children Musicals, Parish Collections and Funeral home memorial programs there also are a few Corporate Sponsors. Our Diocesan Council gave \$50.00 to this fund but that does not even cover \$2:00 per council. *At the parish level, in your councils please consider helping out financially, by sending to the Diocesan Council a contribution to be added to the \$50:00 and help to put faith and justice into action.*

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Reports from National and Provincial Education and Health Chairpersons are on line and very informative. Note: Marlin Taylor is the newly elected Ed. &Health Chair for Ontario.

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Suggestion for parish councils to write a note to new teachers in your parish schools from the Catholic Women's League as support.

## HEALTH

Last year at the National Convention Sr. Nuala Kenny was a keynote speaker if you did not have the opportunity to hear her she will be in Ottawa this fall.

End of Life Committee in collaboration with St. Paul's University is offering a session with Sr. Nuala Kenny, *a Christian Perspective on Suffering and Pain at the end of Life*.

Tuesday November 29, 7p.m.-9p.m.

St. Paul's University Amphitheatre

Registration and Payment \$20.00 in advance

**send name and contact information to**

Pastoral Services

Archdiocese of Ottawa

1247 Kilborn Place

Ottawa, Ont.

K1H 6K9

(St. Paul's does charge for parking) // more inf. ([abrown@Arch.Ottawa.ca](mailto:abrown@Arch.Ottawa.ca)) 613 738 5025 Ex. 217

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Ontario Provincial Education and Health Chair Mary Lou Watson and Anne Madden have prepared a handout on Ethical Decision Making in Health Care (find attached). It covers **Informed Consent & Substitute Decision Making and What Can League Members Do?** Also attached is a copy on Advance Directives for Planning. Consider discussions on this material at you council meetings.

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## Environment

Water on the table Filmmaker Lez Marshall shadows Canadian author and activist Maude Barlow as she travels the world campaigning for recognition of access to fresh water as essential human right. This documentary shows Barlow working hard to overcome corporate spinmeisters, wavering governments and an unenlightened public.

Tue. October 11 10:00 – Noon Cost \$5:00

Kairos - Spirituality for Social Justice Centre

Bronson Centre

211 Bronson Ave, Rm. #306

613 236 6557 or email [kairos@bellnet.ca](mailto:kairos@bellnet.ca)