

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Ottawa Diocesan Council

January 16th, 2012

Communique #3

Theme: Centered on Faith and Justice

To: Spiritual Development Chairs and Parish Presidents
From: Pat Moore, Diocesan Spiritual Development Chair

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*If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*
John 8; 31-32

Greetings to all councils:

I hope you had a truly wonderful Christmas. Our Annual Diocesan Advent Retreat was truly a blessing and God talked to the heart of many of us through Sister Jane McDonnell who, I know, helped many of us go into Advent with open and prayerful hearts. I also pray that your new year will be filled with hope, peace, love and joy and a renewed energy for God's work as he calls us forward in the Catholic Women's League.

I have just completed compiling all the Spiritual Development Chair Reports from 22 councils into a single Diocesan Report to go to Provincial. I am in awe of the spirituality, commitment and dedication of all the women in our parish councils. It is evident that the spiritual growth of each member and council is of utmost importance to all of you. This is so crucial to who we are as Catholic Women's League both as individuals and as a collective group. In our Mission Statement we are called to be women *grounded in Gospel Values*. Thank you for making this your true focus; for taking care of each other spiritually and for allowing your spirituality to be witnessed by many in your parishes and communities by what you do and who you are.

St. Francis of Assisi taught – Preach the Gospel always and sometimes use words.

I would like to share with you information I have received from Patricia Rivest, Provincial Spiritual Development Standing Chairperson regarding upcoming events:

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:

This week takes place January 18-25, 2012. A working group from the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church and Old Catholic and Protestant Churches that are active in Poland prepared materials and can be found by typing in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in a search engine and then click on the title.

Resources for this week and throughout the year may be found on this site. These resources include biblical reflections and prayers for the 8 days as well as additional worship resources.

World Day of Prayer:

Christians throughout the world gather on March 2ⁿ this year, to observe a common day of prayer. The service this year was prepared by women from Malaysia with the Theme of *Let Justice Prevail*. Leadership, guides, posters, workshop booklets, DVD's and CD's of music from the host country can be found on the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada website www.wice.org. Hopefully, your plans for World Day of Prayer are already in the planning stages.

New Evangelization:

Pope John Paul II referred to a "new evangelization". He emphasized that he wasn't calling for a new gospel, but a new effort that is characterized by new "ardour, methods and expressions, and directed in a new way. This is not only to those who have never heard the Gospel before but now also to those who are lukewarm in their Christian Faith.

Pope Benedict XVI created the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization in June 2010 to foster a renewal and awakening of our faith. Listed below are a number of requirements to undertake this renewal.

1. Be aware that it is the Holy Spirit who works in the Church. We must not think that it is our works or our plans that lead to results and to conversions.
2. Live as an authentic missionary disciple – in community. The Lord calls each one of us and gives us a mission.
3. Show great generosity.
4. All the activity of the Church must be an expression of love and service. By our words and our example we make what we proclaim and celebrate believable.
5. Prayer must be the foundation of everything we do.
6. The Eucharist is central, containing in itself the very nucleus of the mystery of the Church and constitutes the source and summit of the entire Christian Life
7. Continual reading of the Word of God is a requirement. It is the compass that guides our path. Prayerful reading of the bible through "lectio divina" is recommended.

For further information, check the following website:

<http://www.ewtn.com/vnews/getstory.asp?number=116296>

As Spiritual Chair for the Diocese, would like to propose the following questions that may be used; a) at a meeting; b) in a small group; c) individually in order that the above come off the paper and become an important part of our journey to the Heart of God.

- a) How often do we (or I) sit in silence and allow the Holy Spirit to pray in me? Can I do this even for short minutes in a day giving everything to God in a positive, prayerful, silent and in waiting humility?
- b) When am I most authentic in community? How do I hear my God in my inner being? How is God refining His mission for me in me? Can I hear?
- c) Do I work out of love and humble service or do I get very busy on projects? Where is God asking us (or me) to depend on Him?

- d) Is Eucharist really central to my life? What does that mean for me? How do I live it out?
- e) How many novels or murder mysteries did I read in a month? How often do I read the word of God and use it for prayer? Is it changing my life?

Spiritual Chairs and Presidents I ask you to give serious consideration to using the above, in whatever way is best for your council or members individually to assist in your spiritual growth and awareness of God's continued presence with you. Thank you.

The Year of 2012

Pope Benedict has proclaimed a "Year of Faith" which he will demonstrate with a special Apostolic Letter. **This "Year of Faith" will begin October, 2012 the 50th Anniversary of the Vatican Council and will end November 24th 2013, the Solemnity of Christ the King.** More information to come.

Notification of Deceased.

- Please be sure to send the names of deceased members directly to National
- National then sends them to Provincial and to myself as Diocesan Spiritual Chair,

The Catholic Church and Indigenous Peoples of Canada:

On the occasion of the Feast Day of St. Marguerite de Bourgeoys, who dedicated herself to the education and care of the Indigenous children of the first French colonies in the country, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has added a new section to its webpage dedicated to the *Catholic Church and Indigenous Peoples of Canada*. This new webpage is to serve as a reference tool to recall the common history and enduring traditions shared by the Church and Indigenous Peoples, and to highlight what is currently being done on a pastoral level among Indigenous Peoples in each of the four major pastoral regions of Canada.

Reference: CCCB
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Ottawa. Ontario K1H 2J2
Tel: 613:241-9461 #225
Fax 613-2418117 www.cccb.ca

I hope and pray that the above is a help to all of you in your councils. Please, remember your Diocesan Council members in your prayers as we in turn remember you, knowing that - When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them: and when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

Shalom
Pat

