

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

**Ottawa Diocesan Council**

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Communique #1

Theme: Centered on Faith and Justice

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

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What is good has been explained to you; this is what Yahweh asks of you: only this  
To Act Justly; To Love Tenderly; To Walk Humbly with your God

A warm welcome to everyone. I hope you had a wonderful summer, time with your families and a much needed rest.

A special welcome to all new Spiritual Development Chairs and those finishing their term of service. I look forward to working with all of you.

I would like to make a request that the Spiritual Chairs, in each parish, send me your contact information –Name: Address: e-mail address: phone number. You can send it to my e-mail address which you all should have. This will really help me as we work as a team.

As we begin a new year of service and commitment, I would like to encourage all Spiritual Development Chairs to:

- Make prayer a very important part of your meetings. Plan your prayer or reflection with other chairs. Eg. If your prayer for the meeting centers on our children and schools, involve your Health and Education Chair; when government or legislation is an issue involve your Resolutions Chair; if Trafficking is the issue being addressed involve your Christian Community Chair.etc. This way you are all working and praying as a team, sharing ideas and supporting each other. You will be amazed how much more meaningful your prayer time together will become.
- Review your mandate as Spiritual Chair and choose only one or two things you and your council can do. Don't get overwhelmed by trying to do too many things. Often times that results in nothing getting done well.(especially if are new to this Chair)
- Please make a concerted effort to encourage your members to attend our Diocesan Events eg. Holy Hour, Advent Retreat. Our first Goal is to grow spiritually as individuals and as women who pray together. Our work will be greatly blessed through our prayer life.
- Have you considered setting up a Spiritual Reading Library – your members can donate good spiritual reading books they may have and are no longer reading. Keep them in a bin and put them out for your meetings. Have a sign-out sheet that allows your members to take them home (you decide together for what given time.) When books are returned ask the member to tell the ladies , in just a few words, what it was

about and why she liked it. Was it as book that changed her thinking, opened her to new ideas, fed her spiritually etc. It can be very simple and will give life to your lending library. Check with your Executive at budget time and ask for a budget to purchase a/ or some new books for your library. Below see some suggestions of books you may want to get. Note: In our parish CWL Spiritual Lending Library we have approximately 60 books. (This is good food for the soul)

- Also, remember that our sisters sitting beside us need our acceptance, love and support. Take care of each other, encourage each other, celebrate each other. You, as Spiritual Chair, for your parish CWL, have been chosen to be a catalyst for all the above. You did not *just happen* into this position. God wants you there for a reason and remember He will lead you and bless you in your commitment.

### **Recommended Books:**

**Songs of the Heart** by Joan Chittister OSB Price«; \$14.95 This is a wonderful book for those who wish to learn to pray with the psalms.

**The Breath of the Soul** by Joan Chittister OSB Price \$16.95 a great book for every person who longs for a deepening of prayer in their lives.

**God's Tender Mercy** by Joan Chittister OSB Price \$11.95 this book demonstrates how the virtue of mercy is a vital part forgiveness.

**All is Grace** by Jim Forest Price 27.95. This is a Biography of Dorothy Day- a woman many consider to be a modern day saint.

Note: All above books are available at Novalis and probably at Amazon.com

**Up-Coming Social Justice Events:** Please check the attached for outlines.

### **Women for Peace : Water on the Table: Kitchen Table Theology**

These events take place at:

Kairos 211 Bronson Ave. Ottawa.( The old Immaculata High School)  
613-236 6557 or [kairos@bellnet.cas](mailto:kairos@bellnet.cas)

Remember your President has a copy of the CWL Events for 2012-13. Check it out with her and really promote our Spiritual Events.

Thank you everyone. I look forward to working with all of you. If you have any questions, my contact information is at the beginning of this communiqué .

May the Holy Spirit and our Patroness Our Lady of Good Counsel bless us with a very happy and grace-filled year.