



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA  
Ottawa Diocesan Council  
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

*Care for our Common Home*



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COMMUNIQUE #6

SEPTEMBER 2020

TO: Parish Spiritual Development Chairpersons

From: Janet Warren, Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairperson

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Dear Sisters in the League,

These quiet days have given me extended time to ponder on the goodness and the love of God. In contemplating how much God loves us and desires only what is best for us, two topics have weighed heavily on my heart. One is *The Way of Peace* and the second is *Domestic Church*. Even as our Churches have begun to reopen there are many restrictions in place that prevent us from going about life as we used to. This has given me pause to consider what changes I need to make in my life. Am I living God's way of peace? Am I helping to build up the greater Church by building up my Domestic Church? I try but fall short.

Let us consider here *The Way of Peace*.

**WAY OF PEACE**

In the Canticle of Zechariah, we pray each morning:

'In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high will break upon us  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death  
and **to guide our feet into the way of peace.**' Luke 1:78-79

Jesus is the dawn from on high. He breaks into our world of darkness to shine his light upon us. Jesus is the One who guides our feet into the way of peace. Back in June the Gospel readings were from Matthew 5, the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus gives us, among other teachings, the eight Beatitudes: (I like to consider these the attitudes with which to clothe ourselves.)

- Blessed are the poor in spirit
- Blessed are those who mourn
- Blessed are the meek
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
- Blessed are the merciful
- Blessed are the pure in heart
- Blessed are the peacemakers
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake

I have heard the Sermon on the Mount described as the 'pathway to happiness.' As we consider the frightening events in the world around us – the anger, the hatred, the violence, the desire for revenge – let us spend time reflecting on Jesus' words in Matthew 5 through 7 and let us pray for the virtues of humility, purity and charity. Peace cannot be legislated. Peace begins with a conversion of heart. Peace is a gift from God. Let us never take it for granted, but always be women seeking and working for that peace that only Jesus can give. May the peace of the Lord be with you always!

### **OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL and DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

It was disappointing not to have been able to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel this year and pray for the repose of the souls of all our deceased sisters in 2019. Our celebration was to have been hosted by Holy Spirit Council in Stittsville. Thank you to Louise Beggs for helping me with the preliminary planning. Ironically both she and I had other commitments that day and would have been represented by others. Thank you to all. Next year we will remember all of our deceased members for the years 2019 and 2020 on Monday, April 26, 2021.

It was also disappointing not to gather for Diocesan Convention at Annunciation of the Lord. Thank you to Sharen Reynaert and the rest of the team for their work in the planning for this event.

### **PRAYER FOR OUR CWL SISTERS IN ONTARIO**

As requested previously by our Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson, Emma Rose Rayburn, let us continue to pray for our CWL sisters throughout the province:

- September – St. Catherine's
- October – Thunder Bay
- November – Timmins
- December – Toronto

### **WOMEN IN MISSION – September 16 – 1:00-2:00 pm ET**

'Women in Mission' was a short online retreat given by our CWL National Spiritual Advisor, the Most Rev. Stephen Jensen, Bishop of Prince George with a focus on our mission as Catholic women called by God. The description read, "Every member of the church shares the mission they received from Christ. How do the unique gifts and experience of women express that mission and give it a special quality?" I hope that many of you were able to take advantage of this hour with our CWL National Spiritual Advisor. It is/will be available on the National website for those who were unable to take part.

### **DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE HOLY LAND & MIDDLE EAST – September 21**

A permanent date – **September 21, the International Day of Peace** – has been chosen as a National Day of Prayer for Christians in the Holy Land. From this year forward, members will be asked to offer prayers for their Christian sisters and brothers living in the Holy Land and the Middle East. Please encourage the members of your councils to participate in this initiative.

### **DAY OF PRAYER FOR HOME MISSIONS – October 1**

We are asked to pray a Rosary on October 1 for our Canadian Missions. October 1 is the Feast of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower. She is a Patron Saint of Foreign Missions.

May God continue to bless you and all who are dear to you!

Your Sister in the League,

Janet Warren