



Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL Council
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
Communiqué #3
March 2014

Dear Sisters in the League:

Lent is a season of forty days, from Ash Wednesday, when we are marked with ashes to Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. Because Sundays celebrate Jesus' resurrection, they are not included in the forty days.



In the Bible, the number of forty appears in the story of the flood, in Israel's wandering in the wilderness and in the life of Jesus. The number forty is often a symbol of ruin and renewal, testing and teaching. Lent is a time for us to remember the ruin that sin brings to our lives, to repent and receive God's forgiveness. During these forty days we remember how our Lord stood in the place of sinners, in our place, and resisted every temptation of the devil. On the cross, the innocent Son of God suffered the punishment we deserved for our sins. Lent is a time to walk in newness of life. It is a time to forgive others as we have been forgiven and Lent is a time to be witnesses for Jesus, to tell others of the forgiveness and life found only in his name.

In the Diocese of Edmonton, Archbishop Smith invites parishioners to receive the gift of God's healing on this year's 'Day of Confessions' to be held on Tuesday, March 18th. In the Archdiocese of Calgary, parishioners have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation on all Wednesdays during Lent from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. at all parishes. Pope Francis has shared this truth with us: God never, ever tires of forgiving us! We, however, do tire of asking for forgiveness. But let's never tire of that. God is always there, always waiting with his love.

In speaking with our new Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Father Andrew, he has indicated that he would like to see CWL councils participate in a Rosary chain. Members from a council could pick a specific time or date that they could pray the "Rosary" either as a group or in the privacy of their home. He suggested that we need to be attentive to what is happening in the Ukraine, and that our prayers are much needed during this time of strife.

In closing I would like to share this prayer:

*Compassionate God, you bless us with the abundance of your love
and grace us with the gift of your eternal presence.
In this Lenten time give us the wisdom to recognize our poverty
and the compassion to share it's treasure with our brothers and sisters.
We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us.*

Blessing for a prayerful and reflective Lenten season!

June F.
Spiritual Development Chair
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL