

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council**



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
Communiqué # 6
Inspired by the Spirit Women respond to God's Call

Date: March 8, 2017
To: Diocesan Chairpersons of Spiritual Development
CC: Parish Council Chairpersons of Spiritual Development, Provincial Executive,
National Chairperson of Spiritual Development
From: Judy Look, Provincial Chairperson of Spiritual Development

MESSAGE

In the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary's video "Together In Action", Bishop Henry uses the phrase a **Culture of Encounter**. Isn't that what we as CWL councils are ... **Cultures of Encounters**; encounters with our God, our neighbour and ourselves. If there is no encounter there can be no love. Lent is an excellent time to reflect on our personal "encounterings". We can use the formula of prayer, sacrifice and almsgiving to give us important insights into ourselves and our relationship with God. These insights have the potential of giving new meaning to our relationship with others. It is through our own personal spiritual growth that we are inspired by the Spirit to encounter and love others on their faith journey.

Annual Reports

Annual reports have been put to bed for another year. Please don't leave them "under your bed"; take the opportunity to use them to evaluate your work, look at the work of other councils and add or drop programs that will help your members grow spiritually.

Many councils reported that they have adopted the 1/3,1/3,1/3 format. This really honours the object of our League that stresses spiritual growth. We all must remember that it is this **object** that sets us **apart** from every other woman's organization .

Job well done ladies!!!!

Prayer Corner on our Website:

The following have been posted:

- Sample Outline for 12 Hours for Palliative Care from Kamloops
- Prayer Service for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Jacqueline Nogier National Spiritual Chairperson
- Prayer Service for a Sorrowful Mystery - Judy Look Provincial Spiritual Development Chair
- Inspired by the Spirit – Sacraments a Way of Life – Judy Look Provincial Spiritual Development Chair
- Prayer Service for Lap Quilts – Sharon Malec Calgary Diocesan President/
Betty Ann Brown – Past National President

National Website:

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care

- Materials are available to help you develop your individual councils programs.
- One council reported they arranged to have twelve hours of pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament and invited members and parishioners to cover the hours. Those members who could not cover an hour at the church were asked to prayer an hour at home.

Lenten Opportunities

Those who live in and around Edmonton or who are visiting Edmonton may want to take advantage of the following opportunities:

Providence Renewal Centre 3005 119 St NW, Edmonton. 780-701-1854.

➤ **LENTEN RETREAT - March 17-19**

Take a **Journey of Hope, Renewal and Joy**, March 17-19, with Fr. Robbie McDougall. Ponder and reflect upon the aspects of *hope* that allow for a spiritual deepening in your relationship with Jesus and *renew* yourself in the *joy* of the Lord. Fr. Robbie's presentations include music written specifically to support the retreat theme and accompany reflection. For more information and/or to register, visit www.providencerenewal.ca or call Kathy at 780-701-1854. Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 119 Street NW, Edmonton.

➤ **THE WAY: A Lenten Pilgrimage - March 23, 30, and April 6 (Thursdays) 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm**

Debbie Doornbos will facilitate exploration of one aspect of "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6) each week inviting a deeper understanding of what it means to walk in the way of Jesus. Debbie has experience of pilgrimage to the Holy Land and the Camino. \$40.00 for 3 weeks. For more information and/or to register, visit www.providencerenewal.ca or call Kathy at 780-701-1854. Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 119 Street NW, Edmonton.

➤ **HOLY WEEK RETREAT - Sunday, April 9 (7:00 pm) to Sunday, April 16 (8:00 am)**

Join Fr. Charles Pottie-Pâté, SJ to discover **GOD'S MERCY CELEBRATED and LIVED** through the readings and prayers, the symbolic rites, and the gestures of our faith's greatest feast. Full week, Triduum only, and per day pricing is available. For more information and to register, visit www.providencerenewal.ca or call Kathy at 780-701-1854.

Star of the North – Retreat House

- **Women of the Church: A Rich Legacy of Discipleship' with Sr. Mary Clare Stack, UJ**
Members of the CWL will gather to celebrate through song, Sacred Scripture, story telling and personal reflection the beauty of their call as disciples who bring light, healing, justice, hope, integrity and love to our Church and world today. March 25th, the Solemnity of the Annunciation (Incarnation), is the Congregational Feast of The Ursulines of Jesus. Sr. Mary Clare, UJ, is excited to celebrate with Mary, and other women of the Church, our call to discipleship. Ours is a "rich legacy" of faith and integrity. Together, we will contemplate and celebrate God's grace working in us as "women of vision, voices for the voiceless, weavers of the Word". Sat. Mar 25 9:30-4:00 \$40 (March 17 registration deadline)

Resource Materials:

Salt and Light Television www.saltandlighttv.org

- Every Life Matters 5 part series - Archdiocese of Edmonton
- Lectio Divina with Cardinal Collins
- Installation of Rev. Bishop William McGratten

Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops www.cccb.ca

Please check them out and see if they will fit into your program. For further information and links please go to the CCCB website.

- **Families on the Way of the Cross**

The Commissariat of the Holy Land in Canada, in collaboration with the Franciscan Family Center in Bethlehem, is offering this year a new resource for prayer entitled "**Families on the Way of the Cross**". Prepared by 14 families from the Holy Land and Canada, this pastoral resource unfolds the intimate experience of the Passion of Christ which many families today live through their many challenges. It also testifies to the Church's solidarity with the Christians of the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East.

- **Development and Peace - Caritas Canada launches 50th Share Lent Campaign**
The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace / Caritas Canada (CCODP) launched its **50th annual Share Lent campaign** on 28 February 2017. The theme of this year's campaign is **Women at the Heart of Change**. The goal is to collect \$8 million "to support Development and Peace's social justice work in solidarity with approximately a hundred local partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East." Various resources are available on the website of CCODP including a message from the Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., Bishop of Hamilton and President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB).
- **Ecumenical Prayer Vigil available for observing International Earth Hour 2017**

The 10th annual International Earth Hour will take place on Saturday **25 March 2017 at 8:30 p.m.** The Roman Catholic – United Church Dialogue has prepared an ecumenical prayer service to help congregations, parishes, and other groups observe, in prayer and worship, International Earth Hour. The resource is available in French and English and is entitled *Earth Hour Vigil*. Earth Hour stems from a grassroots movement that began in Sydney, Australia, in 2007. The goal of Earth Hour is to create greater awareness about energy consumption and to encourage communities to consider turning off their non-essential lights for one hour, between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, 25 March. The *Earth Hour Vigil* is an optional resource, and can be used flexibly on or around 25 March by parish communities and other Catholic groups who wish to engage with local ecumenical partners in organizing an event. The Roman Catholic – United Church of Canada Dialogue is sponsored by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and The United Church of Canada.

Ladies we are truly blessed and privileged to be Spiritual Development Chairs. I encourage all of us to continue to build our Spiritual Programs around prayer and education. I ask God to continue to bless us so we can reflect in our councils and more importantly in our hearts our national theme... Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call.