

Prayer Service for the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel

National office has received numerous requests for a prayer service that could be used on the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. The following prayer service is offered for use by members and councils. It is suggested that a table/altar be set up with a picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel, candles and a rosary for this service. A leader and lector are needed, and a social hour would be a fitting conclusion.

Hymn: *Gentle Woman*

Leader: As patroness of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, Our Lady of Good Counsel guides our work "For God and Canada." We trust that she will be with us now as we unite our hearts to pray in her honour.

All: *League Prayer*

Left: It is truly fitting, Mary, that we should honour you, for God chose to honour you by making you the mother of his son.

Right: The prophets of old spoke your praises and called you "The glory of Israel" and "the glory of womanhood."

Left: The angel bowed in reverence as he addressed you, who was chosen to be the mother of God.

Right: And all generations have called you blessed.

Left: So joyfully, Mary, we praise you.

Right: We praise you in your spotless chastity, which made you worthy to bear the saviour of the world.

Left: We praise you in your virginity, which you kept so precious together with your motherhood.

Right: We praise you in your openness to God's will for your life, and in your perfect following of that will.

Left: We praise you in your courage in facing hardships, misunderstandings and criticisms your vocation brought upon you.

Right: We praise you in the honour you have brought to motherhood throughout the ages and for the example you give to mothers.

Left: We praise you in your motherhood, which by God's decree has made you the mother of us all.

Right: Yes, always and at all times and in all places, we will praise and bless you, Holy Mother of God, ever Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Leader: As a response to Mary's beautiful words, let us pray five decades of the rosary asking God to give us the openness to accept his desire for our life as Mary did.

All: O Lord, our God, by your love and mercy, help us to imitate our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. Make us humble and generous in all we do for you. Teach us to give and not count the cost, to serve others and not to ask for reward save that of knowing we have done your will. Let the joy of your grace overflow in our hearts and grant that we each will be builders of peace and of your kingdom. We ask this through Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen

Leader: Let us join our hearts as we recite the *League Promise*.

All: For the glory of God and the good of God's people, I promise as a Catholic woman to honour, invoke and imitate our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. I promise to be a loyal member of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and to promote its interest and growth in every way. I promise to cooperate with League officers and conform, to the best of my ability, to the Bylaws of the organization in all League activities.

Hymn: *Hail, Holy Queen*