



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: March 25, 2019

FROM: Shari Guinta, first vice-president and national chairperson of spiritual development

TO: Parish chairpersons of spiritual development

CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents, life members (on request)

Greetings to the chairpersons of spiritual development!

As I write this memo, Ash Wednesday is approaching and by the time you read it, members will be well into the season of Lent. Lent is a beautiful time in the church calendar providing the opportunity to reflect, examine and pray. I always "enjoyed Lent". Although it is thought to be a solemn time, and it is in many ways, it can and is also a fulfilling time of inner reflection.

Might I suggest, if you have not already done so, please arrange for and participate with parish Lenten prayer services, Stations of the Cross and special meeting prayers. Although many council meetings begin with mass, I encourage you to plan at least an opening and closing prayer/reflection for meetings. There are many prayers and services available on the national website as well as through other sources. One online resource I like to use is Bishop Robert Barron's (Los Angeles) Instagram reflections. I also subscribe to the Vatican's website (it's free) where you can see, and sometimes hear, the Holy Father's homilies, prayers, reflections and addresses, as well as news coming out of Vatican City.

I have been asked in my role as spiritual development chairperson over the last several months about prayer circles, prayer chains, and prayer councils. I encourage you to offer something for members wanting to be involved. Many members are unable to attend meetings but may want to dedicate time to individuals who have reached out for prayer. A contact list, especially through e-mail, is an effective and easy way to communicate requests. It is very comforting to know that members experiencing problems/trauma are being prayed for.

Something New! You might be interested to know that a stole for ordained permanent deacons appointed as a council's spiritual advisor has been designed and is available through national office at a cost of \$185.00. It may be worn when the deacon participates in League masses and other celebrations and services.

New Theme Prayer

The new *Care for Our Common Home* theme prayer was created for use over the next two years. A hard copy was included in the winter edition of *The Canadian League*. I encourage you to use it.

Care for Our Common Home

Lord, season after season,
You continue to renew the face of the earth,
“For from the greatness and beauty of created things
Comes a corresponding perception of their Creator.”

Teach us, Lord,
As members of The Catholic Women’s League
of Canada,
To become attuned to our need to protect
The beauty of our common home.

May our efforts lead us to sustain its natural order,
So that, in the words of Pope Francis,
Our heritage is never “deprived of physical contact
with nature.”

CWL Prayer for Renewal

A new prayer has been created for the implementation committee working on the planning strategically endeavour. The prayer is available at cwl.ca and copies will be available at the annual national convention in Calgary. Please pray it with your council.

“Vigilant prayer is the wisdom to discern, recognize and hold God as He passes by our side” (*A Year With Pope Francis Daily reflections from his writings*).



Shari Guinta
National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Spiritual Development