



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: April 2, 2021
FROM: Shari Guinta, national first vice-president and chairperson of spiritual development
TO: Parish chairpersons of spiritual development
CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents, life members (on request)

“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)

“The pastoral work of our parishes should involve reflection, logistics, planning, etc., but only in order to dedicate more time to the important task: works of charity.” *(ibid.)*

Greetings to all chairpersons of spiritual development!

I include the above quotes from Pope Francis as I feel they reflect the League's mission, strategic planning and parish councils' work.

Many in Canada are not/were not permitted to be in church for mass during Holy Week. For many, it may be the second Easter without being able to attend church. Can you believe it has been a year since the COVID-19 pandemic began?

There have been some incredible initiatives for the League across the country—development webinars, spiritual retreats and information sessions online, and ideas shared to keep in touch with members such as telephone calls, cards and visits in church parking lots. Members miss church, their parish and the League.

Pope Francis' monthly prayer intentions for the next three months:

- **April**—Fundamental Rights—Pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

- **May**—The World of Finance—Pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.
- **June**—The Beauty of Marriage—Pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community. May they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

I am always amazed at the Holy Father's insight into the year ahead and the problems the world faces.

If you have not looked into the Holy Father's latest encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, I encourage you to do so. Consider ordering it or downloading it—there are various studies and summaries online. I suggest you tune in to presentations on the encyclical. It is not difficult to read and I wholeheartedly recommend that your members read it, your council studies it and perhaps has a guest speaker present on it. Pope Francis asks the world to join in human fraternity and solidarity, reject conflict and war. Visit vaticannews.va for more information.

I close with this prayer from a book entitled *Prayer Seeds: A Gathering of Blessings, Reflections, and Poems for Spiritual Growth* by Joyce Rupp.

Jesus, we turn to You, our model and mentor of giving and receiving.

We recall how You poured Yourself out in service to those who crowded around You.

We bear in mind, too, how You withdrew to the mountainsides to pray and restore what was depleted in Your body and spirit.

Grant us, Giver of Gifts, the wisdom, inspiration, and discipline to cultivate a healthy balance between generous service to others and compassionate care of ourselves.

Amen.

May God Bless you.