

Timmins Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Spiritual Development Standing Committee

Care for Our Common Home
Loneliness

Directive # 11

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March 5, 2021

To: Parish Presidents for Parish Spiritual Development Chairpersons
From: Marie Black, Timmins Diocesan CWL Spiritual Development Chairperson
Bcc: Annette Kelly, Diocesan President; Diocesan Officers; Emma Rose Rayburn, Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson; Fr. John Lemire, Timmins Diocesan Spiritual Advisor; Anne Plaunt, Life Member Liaison and sub-committee member; Maggie Mowbray, sub-committee member

Greetings.

In this directive, I have included information on the Year of St. Joseph, the Feast of St. Joseph, the Novena to St. Rita and the World Day of Prayer.

- 1) **Year of St. Joseph**, as declared by Pope Francis - December 8th, 2020 to December 8th, 2021

I will quote from Annette Kelly's report from the provincial meeting which she attended virtually, February 4-6, 2021.

"Newly appointed Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Archbishop Marcel Dampousse gave a presentation on St. Joseph. On December 8th, 2020, Pope Francis declared a year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Universal Patron of the Catholic Church. The Archbishop spoke of Jesus' "beloved" father who protects, guides and nurtures us. As a "loving" father, he can teach us about fatherhood/motherhood.

In spite of Joseph's fears, God worked through him and He will work through our fears. Joseph shows us the importance of obedience; for him, direction came through dreams. He is an 'accepting' father who didn't always understand, but who accepted. He was a courageous father. Joseph's fiat was a "yes".

At the Diocesan Executive Virtual Zoom Meeting in February, Fr. John also spoke about St. Joseph and the role he played.

It is the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron Saint of the Universal Church. He encouraged us to read Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, **Patris Corde**. In it he describes St. Joseph in 7 different ways: A beloved father, A tender and loving father, An obedient father, An accepting father, A creatively courageous father, A working father, A father in the shadows. Fr. John said St. Joseph is a model and guide for all of us to follow. He teaches us the treasure of silence, the gift of listening, that actions speak louder than words, and receiving grace under pressure he cooperated with God's plan.

You can go online and search for this Apostolic Letter. It is not long and well worth reading.

2) March 19th is the Feast of St. Joseph.

The Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception invite everyone to participate in the **world's largest consecration** to St. Joseph. Go online to **stjosephnow.org**

You can also search online, "Year of St. Joseph", to find a variety of prayers to share with members.

3) The Novena to St. Rita begins on March 22nd. Go online to **praymorenovenas.com/st-rita-novena-2/2156233**

4) The World Day of Prayer is usually today, the first Friday of March, but due to the restrictions this year, the service can be accessed online at WICC.org

There are different ideas on how we can do the service.

The country of Vanuatu (near Australia) wrote the service, "Build on Strong Foundation". It can be viewed anytime until September 30, 2021.

I sincerely hope you, your members and their families mark the above dates on your calendar so that we can all enjoy participating and celebrating with Catholics all over the world.

God bless you and keep you all safe a healthy.

Our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us.

Kindest regards to Fr. John and all my League sisters.

Marie