

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

Care for our Common Home, Loneliness

Directive #5

Pages: 4

April 20, 2020

To: Parish Presidents for Spiritual Development Chairpersons

From: Marie Black, Timmins Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairperson

Bcc: Annette Kelly, Diocesan President; Diocesan Officers; Emma Rose Ontario Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson; Anne Plaunt, Life Member Liaison; Sub-committee member, Maggie Mowbray

Hello, dear sisters in the League.

Life certainly has changed for all of us as a result of Covid-19 and all the worries and difficulties it has created. Who could have imagined experiencing Lent, Holy Week and Easter celebrations in our homes instead of in church? We certainly have had to adapt to this new and unprecedented situation. As a result, I hope you and your family are doing as well as possible and staying safe and healthy.

As Emma Rose stated in her last directive, "With so much happening in the world, prayer has been one of our most saving graces." We have been blessed with a number of services and masses being live streamed on TV and the internet. (I think I am using the correct computer term. Lol!) I know these are not the same as being physically present in church where we receive communion and celebrate with our Christian Community, but we do have to make the best of it. There are numerous sites on the internet where we can access prayers, novenas and other spiritual exercises and information. This too has been a blessing for everyone since we can stay connected to our faith. Phoning, texting, emailing, using Facebook and Skype help us to stay connected to each other in the CWL, with parishioners and with the community.

Let us remember to count all our blessings and of course, PRAY!

A) Shari Guinta, National Chairperson of Spiritual Development, sent out a Communique. In November 2019, the national executive/board held a meeting in Winnipeg. Those in attendance decided that the proceeds of this year's donations to the League's national voluntary fund for Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC) be directed to three churches in great need of assistance a) St. Lawrence of Ahousaht in British Columbia - rebuilding a condemned church; b) St. Theresa's parish in Telegraph Creek, British Columbia - rebuilding the church and rectory that were destroyed by wildfires; c) St. Francis Xavier parish in Attawapiskat, Northern Ontario - rebuilding the condemned church and rectory.

Our councils are encouraged to contribute generously to the national voluntary fund for CMIC. It was planned that all proceeds received up to June 30, 2020 would be released in Montreal at the annual national convention in August. However, since all conventions have been cancelled until further notice, we will probably receive more direction in the near future on what to do. Please keep this endeavor in mind. As soon as I receive additional information, I will let you know.

You can check out CMIC's work at cmic.info (<http://cmic.info/>).

B) Emma Rose Rayburn, Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson, sent me the following directive yesterday.

1) April 26 is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel. This year, Bishop McGratton, as requested by the 2019 National Convention Planning Committee, will celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the Honorary Life Members' and Life Members' intentions, in accordance with the 100th Anniversary Year of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral in Calgary and will be live streamed at Noon 12 EDT. Remember, Calgary time is 2 hours behind EDT. You are asked to encourage your members to celebrate this mass with the Bishop at <https://www.catholiccyyc.ca/livestreammass.html>

The mass notification is at <file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/CWL%20Mass%20April%2026%202020.pdf>

2) On April 25, 2020, Ontario Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Archbishop Prendergast, will be celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving on the Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Ordination (his 25th Anniversary). Tentatively, it will be in private. However, since we can't join him in person, we are asked to join him in prayer and thanksgiving.

3) At a national convention a few years ago, those who attended enjoyed guest speaker, Fr. Mallon. He is speaking at a mission in Nova Scotia, Sunday to Tuesday this week. The following is the link to the parish hosting the mission. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzPNHuoOjwA> If you search YouTube using his name, Emma says you will find more of his awesome talks.

4) Ascension Press, on You Tube, has more great speakers, like Fr. Mike Schmitz. <https://.youtube.com/channel/UCVdGX3N-WIJ5nUvkIBTNhAw>

5) Another renowned speaker is Bishop Robert Barron of Word on Fire, also on You Tube. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcMjLgeWNwqL2LBGS-iPb1A>

6) As well, priests from Companions of the Cross have great messages to share.

<https://www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=companions+of+the+cross>

7) Please pray for the people of Nova Scotia, especially especially those living in Portapique, who are suffering as a result of the mass shootings.

8) Archbishop Prendergast and Rabbi Dr. Bulka composed an Interfaith Prayer in this time of Covid-19. I will put it at the end of this directive in case you want to print the prayer on its own.

C) Please continue to pray for the needs of the diocese of the month as listed in my Directive #3.

D) This is a reminder that the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel is this Sunday, April 26. It will be televised and online at dailytvmass.com. National has sponsored this mass in celebration of its 100th Anniversary. It is being offered for members, deceased members and spiritual advisors.

May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us and keep us strong and faithful.

I pray that God will bless you and your families now and in the coming days and weeks.

Stay safe.

Marie Black, Timmins Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairperson

National Prayer for Canada in the wake of Covid-19

COMPOSED BY

RABBI DR. REUVEN P. BULKA & Archbishop Prendergast

O God,

We gather together separated by life-saving distancing, but united more than ever in spirit; We know we are in a war against COVID-19 together, and the more together we are, the better and stronger we will emerge:

We know the challenges are enormous, yet so are the opportunities;

That whether we are in isolation with loved ones, or alone, we will have an abundance of time; We commit to using that time to the max, to help those in greater need in whatever way we can.

We know we all have the opportunity, and time, to be life savers and life enhancers; We give thanks for those who are on the front-line taking care of those who are not well;

We give thanks for the researchers who are working at breakneck speed to find a cure and vaccine; We give thanks for our leaders, federal, provincial and local, for their dedication to all of us;

We give thanks for the providers of our daily needs who go to work in spite of the risk; We give thanks for those who have ramped up their ability to produce life-saving supplies.

We pray for the well-being of all our life savers; For those who are not well, that they recover fully; For those enduring difficulty, that they may overcome their challenges.

We pray that a cure and vaccine will soon be available,

And that we all – family friends, all Canadians, the entire world may be healed in body and spirit.

We ask you, O God, to bless Canada, to bless the world, to bless everyone.

Amen