

Spiritual Development

April 27, 2021

Communiqué 11



Care for Our Common Home

TO: Provincial Chairpersons of Spiritual Development
CC: National Executive
National Life Member Liaison
FROM: Shari Guinta, National Chairperson of Spiritual Development

“The first word that I wish to say to you: joy! Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy born of having many possessions, but from having encountered a Person: Jesus, in our midst; it is born from knowing that with him we are never alone, even at difficult moments, even when our life’s journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable.” (Pope Francis, March 24, 2013)

The Vatican announced a rosary initiative dedicating the month of May to pray for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization said that “for the deep desire of the Holy Father, the month of May will be dedicated to a prayer marathon with the theme ‘Prayer to God went up incessantly from the whole Church.’” Catholic shrines worldwide will focus on this endeavour and be involved in leading the rosary, which will be live-streamed daily at noon EST.

The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Pope Francis will begin the month with a prayer to Mary asking for her intercession. The Holy Father stated, “The pandemic has made no distinctions and has hit people of all cultures, creeds, social and economic strata.”

The League has historically dedicated the month of May to the Blessed Mother and particularly its patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. I hope provincial, diocesan and parish councils promote her in prayer and activities where possible.

Please ask your diocesan counterparts to encourage parish councils to pray together in whatever way they can, depending on pandemic restrictions that may hinder gathering. Private prayer and online prayer are still options. I encourage organized prayer in that members in councils at all levels focus on prayer for an intention so “together,” join in a concerted effort of appeal and indulgence.

The Pope’s Intentions:

- **May** – The World of Finance – Let us 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 – Let us 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.
- **July** – Social Friendship – We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.
- **August** – The Church – Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

Please ask your diocesan counterparts to remind parish councils the national theme *Care for Our Common Home* is in place until the end of 2021. I hope councils continue to focus on information and practice regarding caring for the planet.

Dates to Remember:

May 1st – St. Joseph the Worker and International Worker’s Day

May 13th – Ascension of the Lord

May 23rd – Pentecost Sunday

May 24th – Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

May 30th – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

May 31st – Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

May certainly is a month of prayer!



Shari Guinta

National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Spiritual Development