

DISCIPLESHIP: COMPANIONS WITH JESUS ON THE JOURNEY OF LIFE

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The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines disciple as “one who accepts the doctrines of another and assists in spreading them; a follower.”

By our baptism, we are disciples of Christ, followers in a long line of faithful people stretching back to the time of the apostles. Today's world is very different from the one in which He walked, and yet, people still need to learn about the love of God and to feel the healing touch of Jesus. There is no back-up plan – we are it!

*“If today you hear God’s voice,
harden not your hearts.”*

Especially in these times of dwindling numbers of religious sisters and ordained clergy, each of us is called in our daily lives to bear witness to the redeeming love of Jesus by our actions and, if need be, by our words. We are called to reverence Jesus hidden in the poor, the lowly and the marginalized. Amazingly, as we reach out to them, they end up evangelizing to us, speaking to our hearts about the love of God!

League members have the perfect vehicles for discipleship:

- As standing committee chairpersons, opportunities exist to meet the needs of brothers and sisters, at home and abroad, young and old, infirm and walking.
- As effective communicators, discipleship skills are sharpened through leadership training sessions.
- As Catholic women, faith blossoms while studying, praying and worshipping together.
- As “soul sisters” across Canada, reflections on faith and the exchange of ideas on how to live daily lives of hope occur in a safe place.
- As responsible, life-long members, places are set at the table as the final goal becomes the focus: to be welcomed by Jesus and His blessed mother into the glory of heaven.
- As collaborative contributors, faith is shared by undertaking projects together that make a difference in the world.

- As caring family members, the image of God in each person is revered and treated with the ultimate respect at all stages of development.
- As responsible citizens, justice and peace is sought in a world marked by poverty, oppression and war.

To quote Fr. Ron Rolheiser's column in Volume 8, No. 25 of the *Prairie Messenger*, “Our Christian tradition has different ways of expressing it, but it's what Jesus meant when he told us to ‘read the signs of the times’ and what John of the Cross meant when he said that ‘the language of God is the experience that God writes into our lives.’ God is inside ordinary life and our job is to see God there.”

The League helps us to read the signs of our times and to see God in our parishes, towns, provinces, country and world. It gives us the opportunity to make His kingdom come right here, now, together with Jesus and each other.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want... He restores my soul... He leads me in right paths... I fear no evil; for You are with me... my whole life long.” (Psalm 23) ✠

ST. MATTHEW PARISH COUNCIL EDMONTON, ALBERTA



St. Matthew Parish Council celebrated its annual service award presentation on June 15, 2005, at its monthly meeting. Edmonton Archdiocesan President Mabel Solomon presented the service awards and helped members celebrate this very special occasion. Together, their service amounts to 380 years.