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The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE of CANADA

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MEMO

To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Spiritual Development
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)
From: Anne Gorman, National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Spiritual Development
Date: April 22, 2016

Happy Easter, my dear Sisters in the League! May the risen Christ set your hearts aflame with pure joy.

In conjunction with National Hospice Palliative Care week, the League is engaging on an all out storming of Heaven with prayer from its more than 83,000 members. Just imagine. You will be the instrument that makes a difference in supporting all citizens who have the right to quality end-of-life care. All prayers will help move parliamentarians and provincial legislators to do the right thing. I am very confident. God bless all of you as you engage in this beautiful demonstration of faith in action.

Secondly, in the *Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis According to Which an Indulgence is Granted to the Faithful on the Occasion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*, the Holy Father wished this year to be “a living experience of closeness of the Father...so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened.”

The holy door pilgrimage that accompanies the jubilee makes an indulgence available. To experience and obtain the indulgence, a brief pilgrimage is made to the holy door “as a sign of the deep desire for true conversion.... It is important that [the pilgrimage] be linked to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.” The Holy Father states, “It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions that I bear in my heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world.”

Pope Francis is concerned about those who may not be physically able to make the pilgrimage due to illness, age or incarceration. The sick or shut-in may receive the jubilee indulgence as they “live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord... receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer.” Incarcerated persons who realize the injustice of their actions may obtain the indulgence in the chapels of the prisons. As well, the indulgence may be obtained for the deceased by remembering them in the Eucharistic celebration and praying for them that “the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude.”

All of us are sinners who need mercy. The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy includes everyone. May we have mercy shown to us as we perform spiritual and corporal works of mercy for others.

God bless you in your prayers and actions.

Anne Gorman
First Vice-President and Chairperson of Spiritual Development

