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## The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE of CANADA

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# MEMO

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To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Spiritual Development  
From: Anne-Marie Gorman, National Chairperson of Spiritual Development  
Sub-Committee Chairpersons: Judith Look, Marie Rackley  
Date: October 21, 2014

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“For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’, and it will move; nothing will be impossible for you” (Mt. 17:20).

Greetings, my dear sisters in the League! What a pleasure it is to speak to you directly. My first communiqué gave a summary of my early life, and this is on the website. As a widow of eleven years, a mother of four and grandmother of eight, I spend a great deal of time imploring the Lord to keep all in His tender care as we all do.

Whether single or married, with or without children and grandchildren, spiritual development is the single thing that connects all 89,000 of us and separates us from all other organizations. If we keep this close to our hearts at all times, it will be easy to arrange our parish agendas to allocate one-third of our general meeting time to spiritual programs and opportunities for spiritual growth. Members want to be fed not only by the Eucharist that we share in community but by the collective and individual opportunities to pray, reflect, study and share.

### **URGENT ATTENTION**

We urgently need prayer for peace in the world. The world has yet to learn the futility of war, but we as members can and will make a difference (see the scripture reference at top). Suggestion: Begin The Holy Rosary with the Prayer of St. Francis (said or sung) and end with the Memorare. Dividing the country into five regions, we will be praying as a membership five days a week for peace:

- **Day One:** British Columbia and Yukon
- **Day Two:** Alberta and MacKenzie
- **Day Three:** Saskatchewan and Manitoba
- **Day Four:** Ontario
- **Day Five:** Quebec and Atlantic Canada.

(Council chairpersons of spiritual development: please include this in your annual reports)

### **The Open Door**

To mark the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Catholic parish in North America, the Holy See commissioned the building of a holy door (one of only seven in the world) in the Cathedral Basilica of Notre-Dame de Quebec. The Holy Door opened December 8, 2013. This door is significant in North America and will only be open until December 28, 2014. It may be that someone lives close enough to visit this “door [that] is a symbol of communion with the universal church” (Salt + Light).

The church and the League have many resources that will assist us on the journey, individually and as parishes:

- 1) **Shorter Christian Prayer**, taken from *The Liturgy of the Hours*, is the prayer of the church. It is a four-week psalter (book of psalms). When we pray this alone or together, know others throughout the world are praying it in their languages. It is worth the effort to learn how to follow it. If no one in the parish knows how to follow the prayer or has the book (available online), please contact someone in the diocese or me for help. St. Paul instructs us in Thess 1:5-17 to pray without ceasing. "He means for us to adopt an ongoing attitude of prayer that is a way of life and a constant intercession for the salvation of [humanity]... Believers pray for the good of themselves, their neighbours, and the world..." (Divine Office Catholic Ministry).
- 2) On the national website ([www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)), there are dozens of excellent resources under spiritual development for every occasion and need. Please begin here and use some of the programs, workshops, etc., that speak to your council. Chairpersons of spiritual development might wish to choose something that can be adapted for her parish sisters.
- 3) You may wish to examine *Lectio Divina* (literally "Divine Reading"), reflect on daily readings and reflections written by authors such as Rev. Ron Rolheiser and Rev. Richard Rohr, or invite a resource person to give a teaching.
- 4) "Great Need, Great Hope" is a CD produced by Catholic Missions In Canada ([www.cmic.info](http://www.cmic.info)). It was widely circulated by Kathleen Ancker and Patricia Gyulay during the 94<sup>th</sup> annual national convention. Please remember our mission friends in some way.

### **The Book of Life**

Mailings will go out quarterly in April, July, September and December to your provincial spiritual development chairperson. The provincial spiritual advisor will review the lists and report back to national office with any corrections or additions required. If you require information for your Book of Life, please contact your provincial spiritual advisor. Please keep national office updated with this information in a timely manner.

### **A Few Dates**

November 30: First Sunday of Advent

December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America

December 28: Feast of the Holy Innocents

December 31: Deadline for new hymn submissions

### **Hot Off the Press**

New and exciting resources are being developed for use as parishes develop the new theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*.

Included in this mailing:

- A redesigned invitational handbill
- A new theme card
- A copy of the current invitation cards

Look for the invitation cards placed more prominently on the website and a new rotating banner will be added. Surprises await you in both the winter and spring editions of *The Canadian League* magazine.

May God bless us as we complete the theme *We Have Seen the Lord!* and prepare for the new theme. There are still many a mile to travel before then.

Your Sister in Christ,



Anne-Marie Gorman  
National Chairperson of Spiritual Development