



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council
Spiritual Development Chairperson



Care for our Common Home

Communiqué – Fall 2021

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November 2021

To: Spiritual Development Chairpersons
From: Patricia Clizia, Diocesan First Vice President/Spiritual Development Chairperson
cc: Diocesan Executive, Parish Presidents, Provincial Organization Chairperson

My dear sisters in the League,

The Advent season is upon us!

During this season of contemplation, hopeful preparation and giving, we too are like the innkeeper responding to a request to make room for the Christ child – in our hearts, our homes and our daily lives.

We contemplate too, what Mary must have felt as she was faced with a question that seemed 'out of this world.' Her humble, courageous and faith inspired yes indeed changed the world – and provides us all a gateway to God through Jesus her son.

There are times when we are all faced with questions and decisions that require prayer, courage and action. As League members, we find ourselves in a significant period of change, while holding fast to the pillars of faith, service and social justice to guide our collective action as women of faith united by a League that encompasses all women from coast to coast to coast over our great Canadian landscape.

There are many resources that are available to us to welcome the new birth of Jesus in our hearts this advent season. You're invited to mark your calendars and join in as we actively live out our faith in hope, with peace, love, joyful anticipation – and action!

I am sharing a few resources that have been made available for sharing.

Advent retreats have been planned for members. Visit cwl.ca or visit the Facebook page for links to the retreats posted on the day of the planned retreat.

- 1. Prepare your Heart**, led by Susan Campbell, director of Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre (Cochrane, Alberta), will help members enter into the season of Advent – **November 28, 2021**
- 2. In Thy Dark Streets** led by Friar Michael Perras OFM- **December 12, 2021**

"Hope and Joy at Advent" December 1, 2021-Simone Brosig
Registration is \$9.95 at en.novalis.ca/products/hope-and-joy-atadvent?_pos=59&_sid=7656055dc&_ss=r.

-Creighton University Online Ministries'
onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/

-Stepping Beyond, an Advent retreat offered by Pray as You Go, inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical letter Fratelli Tutti, on fraternity and social friendship. Learn more: pray-as-you-go.org/article/advent-2021-stepping-beyond.

-**My Catholic Life!** Enjoy excellent materials for daily reflections, prayers, inspiring quotes and more that can be read independently or as a group from mycatholic.life/.

-**A Lesson in Waiting Advent Retreat** from **Busted Halo** is suitable for individuals or a parish council meeting using a handout. The resource can be found at drive.google.com/file/d/1uAnS6sgSN6bOuyi_bhq0UfKih010sD0u/view.

-**Online Advent Book Discussion** facilitated by the **Henri Nouwen Society**. The book selected for the Advent discussion that begins November 24th is the newly released *Community* by Henri Nouwen, edited by Stephen Lazarus. For more information, visit henrinouwen.org/resources/join-advent-book-discussion/.

-**Prayers for Advent by Loyola Press**. Download these resources from loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/prayers/

-**Advent Stations:** They can be prayed with a group of faithful, family or alone. For more information, visit liturgies.net/Advent/adventstations.htm. "7 Advent and Christmas Carol Quotes that You Can Pray with this Season" is an excellent resource for a parish council Advent supper. It offers reflections connected to specific religious carols with visuals and audio. Available from Catholic Link at catholic-link.org/7-advent-christmas-carols-quotes-prayer/.

-**Advent Examination of Conscience** can be used for individual or reflection as a group. waterloocatholics.org/documents/2019/12/HO-Advent%20Exam%20of%20Conscience.pdf.

-**Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe:** December 4th - 12th catholic.org/prayers/novenas/novena.php?id=13. A novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe is also available-Pray Catholic Novenas application at pray.app.link/ourladyofguadalupe.

In these changing times, I am praying to Our Lady of Good Counsel to lead us in the way of truth and life. I am praying *also* to Our Lady of Guadalupe - for her intercession and guidance as we seek to protect life, reconcile in truth with our Indigenous brothers and sisters and evangelize a new generation of women and youth. We like Mary, are courageously answering yes to God's call – with humility, faithfulness, love and action during our journey through Advent to welcoming Christ at Christmas.

"The encounter with Jesus Christ happens in daily life, and in one's personal search in prayer, in the wise reading of the signs of the times (Mt 24:32, Lk 21:29) and in the midst of our brothers and sisters (Mt. 25:31-46, Lk 10:25-37)"

Taken from: A Year with Pope Francis – Daily reflections from his writings as the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina and during his first year as pope.

Hope, peace, joy and love,



Patricia Clizia
First Vice President / Spiritual Development Chair
Sault Ste Marie Diocesan CWL