



## The Catholic Women's League of Canada

### Sault Ste Marie Diocesan Council

Communique #4

Pages: 2

December 31, 2024

To: Parish Council Presidents, Secretaries, Parish Vice-Presidents

From: Kathleen Niro, Diocesan Vice-President

Cc: Diocesan Executive, Provincial Vice-President

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***"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all people."  
Luke 2:10***

My dear Sisters in the League,

It is with joy we continue our Christmas Holy days to the Epiphany, into the New Year.

At the beginning of December, councils were diligently working to complete the National Annual Report survey. At this same time of Advent, we prepared our hearts and homes for the birth of Jesus, to be laid in the manger. School concerts and pageants, choir rehearsals and concerts, baking, shopping, lighting candles, praying, reflecting – peace, hope, joy and love.

Our National Vice-President, Betty Colaneri, was also busy preparing a communique to keep us alert in our goals of our position as Vice-President. I have attached it with this communique.

I bring your attention to the following:

- Copies of Faith, Vision and a Dream: 100 Years of Service, the 100th anniversary book of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, are still available.
- Let's work together to continue the momentum of the '1' Campaign to "Recruit, Retain and Regain." The following catchphrases are for the New Year.
  - o January: Happy '1' New Member!
  - o February: '1' Amazing Love
  - o March: The Courage of '1'

Thank you to all councils who completed the survey.

"Looking ahead to 2025, we find a special source of encouragement. Pope Francis has declared it a Jubilee Year, a time to renew our faith and focus on the theme of hope. Hope is not mere optimism but a deep trust in the God who walks with us, even in our most difficult moments. As we prepare for this Jubilee, let us embrace this call to

be people of hope, to carry the Light of Christ into the world and into our communities." Monsignor John Byrne, P.P.V.G.

Today I watched the opening of the Holy Door and Mass at Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano, Rome (Saint John Lateran). The Holy Door represents open arms. In Cardinal Reina's, Vicar of the Diocese of Rome, homily, he states many things. He remembered those who suffer difficulties such as loneliness, poverty, discouragement, and those who have lost hope.

"From those open arms, we learn to be Church, to become its sacrament, the family of the God who liberates our freedom towards good." Therefore, he encouraged everyone to pass through the Holy Door with trust, to savour and contemplate the goodness of the Lord, to experience His joy, and to become "tireless sowers of hope and builders of fraternity" in our world. (Vatican News, Antonella Palermo, Dec. 29, 2024)

As I reflect on the words of Cardinal Reina's homily, I am drawn to the members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. We are welcoming women faith filled, working to serve our communities, those who are suffering and have lost hope. With joy in our heart, we invite and welcome the women in our parishes to become a member in the League, to offer them support in their needs and to support the good work in our councils. We will grow together in joy, faith, hope and love through faith, service and social justice.

**Opening of the Holy Door and Holy Mass | Live from Rome | Shalom World**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hWSZvfWfI0>

**Highlights, Opening of the Holy Door and Mass, December 29, 2024, Vatican News**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcqF6xS--p8>

Lastly today I share my Christmas story. I am the person who sends Christmas cards. This year, due to the Canada Post disruption, I had to rethink how to reach my friends and loved ones. I recalled the actions of Life Member, Betsy Currier a few years back and was inspired by her actions. This year I did something similar. I donated to the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay, the cost of cards and stamps for all those to whom I would have sent a card. This includes each of you. The timing of this, post-Christmas day and pre-Epiphany is twofold. First, Jesus was born in a stable, no room in the inn, homeless for a time. The feast of Epiphany is when the kings arrive bearing gifts – you are a gift to everyone you meet and although we may not recognize it, each encounter is a gift to us. Let's remember as we continue to journey through Christmas.



Blessings and hope for the New Year,  
Be jubilant!

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