



**Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

Communique No. 1

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**To: Parish Spiritual Chairpersons / Parish Presidents / Provincial President/
Provincial Executive / Life Members/
National Spiritual Chairperson**

From: Ellen Merrigan, Provincial Spiritual Chairperson

“Spiritual growth is the very heart of the League and the essence of its existence”.

Greetings to All:

This is my first communiqué as Spiritual Development Chairperson. I am delighted to follow the footsteps of Pauline Martin and others in enhancing our spiritual growth as we journey together.

It is our task as nurturing women of the church to keep things simple but to make things count. Pope Francis said “every baptized person is called to offer to Jesus his or her own faith, poor but sincere, so that He can continue to build His church, today in every part of the world.” With this in mind we should look at the resolution that was passed at this year’s provincial convention and get ready to follow our action plan. Some suggestions are:

1. Form Study Groups to explore the message of the “Joy of the Gospel”.
2. Invite speakers that specialize in the topic of Evangelization.
3. Pray an Evangelization Prayer at all CWL meetings and promote that prayer in the parishes.
4. Use daily life opportunities to support the faith of another person, to share our own faith, and work for justice and peace in order to build up Jesus’ kingdom in our homes and workplaces and among our neighbours and friends.
5. Avail of workshops provided by NL Provincial Council, through the National Development Fund.
6. Include/engage Parish Spiritual Advisor’s in planning prayer, reflection and workshops and make them available to all parishioners.

Our theme “One Heart, One Voice, One Mission” concerns oneness. This oneness is calling us to get to the heart of Jesus’ message of love of the Father, the neighbor and the self. It is

with one voice we proclaim this truth and it is our mission to take this Good News to the world.

It is very important for us to concentrate on Pope Francis' message that we are all called to care for all creation. We need to read and study his Encyclical called "Laudato Si" (Praise to you, My Lord) on caring for the environment. Here is a link to the 'Laudato Si' website.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

We need to be mindful of the "Year of Mercy" that runs from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016. The holy Year of Mercy will be an opportunity to encourage Christians to meet people's "real needs" with concrete assistance, to experience a "true pilgrimage" on foot, and to send "missionaries of mercy" throughout the world to forgive even the most serious of sins, said Archbishop Rino Fisichella. Pope Francis calls on the Church to refashion as a place not of judgment but of pardon.

The World Meeting of families takes place in Philadelphia from September 22-25, 2015. Families are called together from all over the world in celebration of the family, the sanctuary of love and life. I am including the "World Meeting of Families Prayer". Pray for its success and for your family's personal intentions.

World Meeting of Families Prayer

God and Father of us all,
In Jesus, your Son and our Savior,
You have made us
Your sons and daughters
In the family of the Church.

May your grace and love
Help our families
In every part of the world
Be united to one another
In fidelity to the Gospel.

May the example of the Holy Family,
With the aid of your Holy Spirit,
Guide all families, especially those most troubled,
to be homes of communion and prayer
and to always seek your truth and live in your love

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We need to pray for the plight of the people of Syria. Maybe we can in some way help alleviate some of their suffering.

In closing I want councils to feel free to contact me at any time for prayer services, resources, prayers or anything that may enhance your meetings.

God Bless You All,
Ellen Merrigan
Spiritual Development Chairperson