

INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT, WOMEN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

Message From the Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Cecil Critch

Each of us, at our Baptism, was **called by God, gifted by God** with many gifts and talents, and **sent by God** as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. We are called to be as Pope Francis said: “leaven in the midst of humanity, proclaiming and bringing God's salvation into the world.” (Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 114) Each of us is a precious gift of God to the world. On our journey, we use the gifts and talents that God gave each of us to make our world a better place, a place of light, hope, love and peace. We are called to embrace God's love and reflect it back to the world. That reflection of God's love is at the heart of living a meaningful Christian life. We will be judged at the end of our lives by how we have loved others, how we have been a light in the darkness for others on our journey. Our Christian faith is challenged by so many things in our society today. We see at times a disrespect for life, a disrespect for God's creation and unbridled greed, as people try to accumulate more and more possessions for themselves. The members of the CWL are called to challenge these attitudes with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus tells us that what is important in life is being kind, merciful and compassionate to one another. We are to **BE** Eucharist for one another, to **BE** Christ's body for one another, broken and shared. Jesus tells us to be merciful by **DOING** mercy-feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and welcoming the stranger. It is said that life is at its brightest and best when lived in service of one another. Members of the CWL are called to be bold evangelizers, bringing the light of Christ into the darkness of our world. They are called to be like Mary, bearers of Christ and his message of justice, love and peace to the world. Pope Francis said: The Church which 'goes forth' is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative; he has loved us first, and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads, and welcome the outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father's infinite mercy.” (Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 24)