



Diocesan Dialogue

Online Newsletter
Volume 5



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In this issue we read about the Development and Peace fall campaign in LM Marlene's article. You might be interested in supporting a much needed outreach project. Thanks to all our contributors this month. Consider sending an item for next month. Deadline for submissions is December 6.

Web Wednesday is real! So....grab your morning coffee and start surfing.

Websites to visit

- www.cwlthunderbay.org
- www.cwl.on.ca
- www.cwl.ca



President's Message

During the month of November, we celebrate two very important feast days, All Saints Day on November 1st and All Souls Day on November 2nd. On All Saints Day, we honour those holy men and women who have gone before us in faith and have done so in a glorious way. The saints in Heaven are entrusted with the important task of intercession. God uses them to bring our prayers to Him and, in return, to bring His grace to us.

All Souls' Day is a day to honour and pray for the dead who are believed to be in purgatory — the place in which the Christians who have passed away atone for their sins before going to heaven. Roman Catholic belief suggests that the prayers of the faithful living on earth will help cleanse these souls of minor sins and help them reach heaven.

The far reaching effects of Covid-19 will be evidenced at our Diocesan, Provincial and National Conventions in 2021. With the shortened durations, attendance by invitation only, along with conforming to all the guidelines set forth by government, our conventions will certainly look and feel very different.

Annual report time will soon be upon us. I'm hoping that many of you were able to view the

Webinar presented by National last week, which gave an overview and helpful hints on completing reports online. For those of you manually reporting, the forms are available on the National website under the heading "To Organize," the 1000 series at the bottom of the column.

As we continue to work for the League, I hope that councils make a concerted effort to gather safely whenever you can in order to nurture your sisterhood, and most importantly, pray, pray, pray.

May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to intercede for us.
Blessings,
Maria



Annual Reporting A Necessary Task

Each year parish councils are tasked with completing the annual report from which higher levels in the League complete their reports. We report for a variety of reasons but the two most important are to share our stories and to meet government mandates for reporting by not-for-profit organizations. Without your report diocesan, provincial and national levels cannot complete their reports. This year the reporting has been simplified so the task won't seem as onerous. Our diocesan president has outlined where to find report forms for those who want to do them manually. If you choose online reporting, links can be provided for councils by requesting them from national office. Be sure you know what your council number is as this is required for each report. A repeat of the webinar on annual reports will take place on **November 24 at 2:00 pm**. Visit the national website to register. I attended the one a bit ago. It was well-presented and very informative. Important dates to remember:

Manual Reports must be in the mail by **December 15, 2020**

Online reporting to be completed by **January 15, 2021**

Remembrance Day 2020

Each year people gather at one of the memorial sites across our diocese to remember in silence the many who gave of themselves to protect the rights and freedoms of our country. In these extraordinary times of COVID we must gather in a very different way. Take a moment of time to pause, reflect and pray in thanksgiving... Lest we forget!



Recovering Together

What a fitting title...and theme for the 2020 fall campaign launched recently by Development and Peace (D&P). We are in the midst of an unprecedented global crisis. During this time, we have been able to reflect on what's happening in our own families and communities. We are grateful that our government has instituted support for families, businesses, and the unemployed to mention a few. We are fortunate to have such safety nets. In addition, local charities have reached out and the community has responded with donations.

Covid 19 has impacted not only locally but globally as well. This pandemic has shown us that we are all interconnected. We live in a common home but some of us are at risk more than others, particularly in the global south. It is the most vulnerable and marginalized who suffer the consequences of climate change, droughts, and disease. It is estimated 265 million could face starvation by the end of 2020. Only 1 in 5 people are covered by safety net programs. We are called to reach out to those in need. When we help others, we help ourselves.

Pope Francis recently released "***Fratelli Tutti,***" an ***Encyclical Letter on Fraternity and Social Friendship***. It calls for a love that transcends the barriers of geography and distance. It calls us to live as a single family in a common world. We are called to come together in support of a global economy that moves us to building global relationships which can move us towards a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

The Catholic Women's League is supportive. D&P is grateful for any donation big or small. There is an option of making a small monthly donation by signing up for "Share Year Round" donating.

I invite you to learn more about how you can make a difference. Visit the website <https://www.devp.org>

A Prayer to the Creator

Lord, Father of our human family,
 you created all human beings equal in dignity:
 pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
 and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
 dialogue, justice and peace.
 Move us to create healthier societies
 and a more dignified world,
 a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.
 May our hearts be open
 to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
 May we recognize the goodness and beauty
 that you have sown in each of us,
 and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
 and shared dreams. Amen.

Pope Francis from Fratelli Tutti

Submitted by: Marlene Pavletic, Life Member

Video Link

<https://youtu.be/A5hDf6gI4sA>



An Excellent resource to promote the fall campaign.

A video of the recent *Thunder Bay Fall Workshop* is available on line. Contact Marlene for full information.

Assisting the Homeless



Picture of a presentation to the Salvation Army. This is one of the 20 plus blankets that Our Lady of Loretto/St. Mark's Chapel made in response to the call "Assisting the Homeless".

We, as a Council, decided to make blankets for the new building of the Salvation Army and timed it so that delivery could be made when the facility was scheduled to open.

Blankets were made with love and concern for those most in need.

Pictured is June Gaw, President, Heather Lagrange, Member who spear-headed the project, and Cathy Oleschuk, Program Services Director, Salvation Army.

2020 Bizarre Bazaar



St. Patrick's members have been using their creative talents to create a memorable 2020 Parish Bazaar...aptly named: **2020 Bizarre Bazaar** we have engaged the services of a talented videographer to capture this moment in time...this fabulous event requires no license, us purchasing nothing, no needing to set up, endure tired feet, have chapped hands from doing dishes, fussing over decorating, trying to find enough volunteers to sell tickets or help out...members supplied photos, recipes, craft ideas...soon we will be able to enter into the world of the

Bizarre Bazaar..

Our Bizarre Bazaar will be unveiled on the parish website (www.stpatrickcathedral.ca) the weekend of November 14/15 (the weekend our bazaar would have happened)...what is exciting is the opportunity to watch and watch again perhaps making some popcorn or enjoying a dainty and having time to laugh and remember...to see familiar faces, to learn how to do something different or try a new recipe...the opportunities are priceless!!! You are all welcome to go online to view....

Elections Process 2020

In an effort to clearly understand the elections process for this year I sent my question to national office. Here is the reply..."The way we are explaining elections is this. Anyone who was holding an elected office in June/July 2020 would hold it for three years. So, the best way to calculate the next election is to add three years since the last election".

Simply if you held your last election in 2018 add three years and your next election is 2021.

If you held your last election in 2019 add three years and your next election is 2022.



That being said, our next diocesan election will be held in 2022 (2019 +3); the next provincial election will be held in 2022 as well; the next national election will be held in 2021 (2018 +3).

Priestly Ordinations

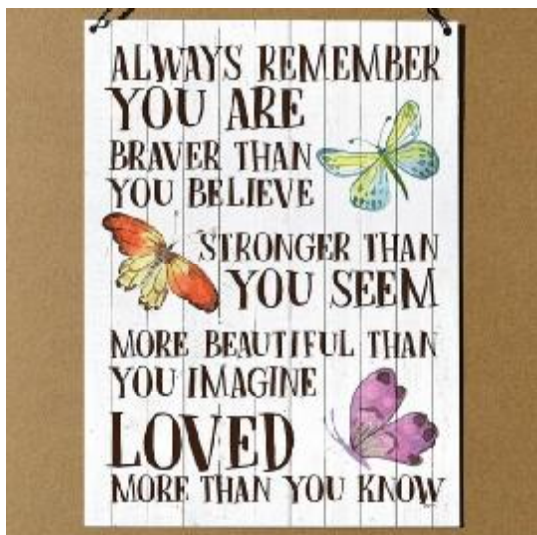
Letters of congratulations on the anniversary of priestly ordination are being sent out regularly on our behalf. Over the past few months we have remembered

Father Francis Pudicherry September 29

In November and December letters will be sent to:

- Father Jerin Louis November 3
- Father James Panikulum November 22
- Father Rey Ronquillo November 25
- Father Michael Mahoney December 8
- Father Justine Eze December 10
- Father Allen Abadines December 14
- Father Ciaran Donnelly December 16
- Father Henryk Augustynowicz December 21

Submitted by Jane Slobodnik, Communications



Survive a Heart Attack Alone



Some important information that just may save a life.

This comes from Dr. Patrick Teefy, Cardiology Head at the Nuclear Medicine Institute University Hospital, London ON.

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest.

A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two-seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it to regain a normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get help or to a hospital.

Thanks to Liz Bortolussi for sharing

November Reflection
By Father Mike Mahoney
Diocesan Spiritual Advisor



March 27th,
a stark and surreal beginning

Surreal is an adjective meaning 'strange, not seeming real, like a dream'.

On March 27th the day the tide of daily covid deaths in Italy began to recede, Pope Francis climbed the steps in front of St. Peter's, praying before the cross alone; a pope looking out on an empty square for perhaps the first time in centuries as he gave the Urbi et Orbi blessing to the world.

In his preface to the document "Heal the World", Cardinal Turkson recalls this event saying Pope Francis resembled the 'suffering Servant' of Isaiah 52 bearing the 'brokenness, pain, and bewilderment of humanity's affliction...by a virus it knew little about and for which it had no remedy". He also saw in that moment the "image of the high priest who represents the human family before God, (bringing) to God its collective pain and anxiety, (seeking) from God healing and consolation".

Pope Francis praying before the 'plague cross' is a reminder of the history of the Church facing the evils that afflict our world. How many communities trace the roots of their faith to saints and evangelists who appealed to God on behalf of the people in times of war, plague, and famine.

Recently in a talk given to representatives of Canadian Priests' Councils by Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, the Papal Nuncio to Canada; spoke of our need to rediscover the power of 'intercessory prayer', like Moses on the mountain with arms raised (Ex 17); to stand before God and pray on behalf of others, in communion with each other.

The swath of the pandemic continues to diminish our social interaction and worsens the experience of darkness, indifference, the cold shoulder, and heaviness of feeling alone. In this new reality, there is an opportunity to listen at a new level, before we have an answer and a plan to offer. To be with each other in the silence, listening hopefully; assured that the Lord listens with us.

Outreach - Help for Those in Need

There is a group of people at St. Paul's Anglican Church that have in the past crocheted Sleeping Mats for the homeless. These mats are made from shopping bags that are cut into bands, linked together and then crocheted into a mat.

The Gentleman that organized this project passed away this past February. Since then no mats have been made. The Salvation Army has contacted St. Paul's requesting Mats for the cold months ahead. There are people in place to do the Crocheting, but they need of the plastic bags to make the Plarn (plastic yarn).

1. If you have plastic shopping bags stuffed in a cupboard somewhere and you want to part with them, please let me know and I will get them from you.
2. Or if you are ambitious and would like to help, you can make the balls of Plarn, drop them off at the church or I can pick them up from you.
3. Or drop the bags off at St. Paul's Church, they can be collected from there.

Share this need with others you know. This "one-use-plastic" bag will see a new life as a sleeping mat. What will we do next year when we do not have plastic bags....start thinking now! The bags will be gone, but the need for the mats will not.

Bev Page

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Finding Peace

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Have you noticed that we are all isolating ourselves during this covid-19? I sure have and I am lonely, frustrated and really need God in my life right about now. Our world is broken and we are left with many problems such as conflict, anxiety, depression, poverty, divorce, cancer, tragedy, disaster and the list goes on and on.

I was feeling like my life was becoming unmanageable and needed someone more and more to make my problems go away. So I decided I needed a quiet space where I could close the door and start talking to God and reading every spiritual lifting article I could get my hands on.

I must say I am finding peace and so grateful to have the gift of God in my life. I have prayed for guidance and ask for God to show me the way. I realized it was me who has kept me from surrendering all my thoughts and worries to God. I want to know God more, trust that he has a plan for me and he only has my best interest at heart. Wow! That is powerful. Just having faith that God loves me has brought sanity and healing back into my life.

With believing God can help if I trust him, I have smiled more, laughed and can focus more on happier times and let go of the things I think of as problems. Whatever comes our way, we can face our struggles with hope, comfort, peace and acceptance by turning and talking to God more and more each and every day.

As I go forward trusting God and seeking spiritual awareness all around me, I am rewarded with coping skills I didn't realize I had.

Submitted by Judy Imbeault, President Elect / Organization

In This Time of Isolation

In this time of isolation, I pray for each of you. We all are feeling the lack of companionship and connectedness to our sisters of the league. I am at my home in International Falls, Minnesota and feel the void left by not being able to attend meetings and activities with you. I am praying for the border to open and this virus to be controlled.

Even as we are isolating and being safe, the committee at National are working on the strategic plan and posting on the national website. All members are requested to take an active role in reading about the progress the committee is making. There will be a required instructed vote to accept these changes so all should read and review the proper procedure. (*Constitution & Bylaws, Part XX Amendment of Constitution & By-laws.*)

Taken from a MEMO from Margaret Ann Jacobs, National past president and chairperson of laws:



“Members will have an opportunity to vote on changes to the C&B as part of the strategic plan and other important matters.

1. The votes must be conducted in person
2. The votes must be scheduled in all parish councils for January/February meetings
3. Detailed instructions and forms will be distributed in December. Watch for the package.

4. **(Past-Presidents and Presidents)** The immediate task: Set a date and start “Save the Date” communications, so members do not miss the opportunity to have their say in the League of the Future.”

These are exciting times with many challenges. Pray for each other and reach out to your sisters in the League. Texting and emailing are great but the sound of a voice on the telephone makes a big difference. We all need to remember our house bound sisters and those who are living alone. I was reminded of this last evening when I phoned someone and she told me that she has been depressed, but just the idea that someone bothered to make the effort brightened her spirits and lifted the depression.

Submitted By Mary Wilson, Past Diocesan President / Historian

