

DIOCESAN DIALOGUE

December is dedicated to Advent and the coming of Christ

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Editor's Note

**As the saying goes -
"better late..-...
Thanks to all who
contributed.**

Websites to visit

www.cwlthunderbay.org

www.cwl.on.ca

www.cwl.ca

**Wishing you all joy, love
and peace and hope for a
new year during this holy
season.**

**Please gather your best
memories of 2021 to
share in our January
newsletter.**

President's Message



**"Advent is here. What a
marvellous time in which to
renew your desire, your
nostalgia, your real longing for
Christ to come – for Him to come
every day into your soul in the
Eucharist.**

**The Church encourages us: He is
about to arrive!" -**

St. Josemaria Escriva

The Catholic Women's League in our Diocese, is slowly experiencing an awakening after the stifling effects of the pandemic. In-person meetings are resuming, along with fundraising activities and works of charity, all to inspire and motivate us. It has been long in coming as we have endured a couple of very difficult years but it's time to get back on track! At this time of year, we are reminded to complete our Annual Reports. The deadline for completion of manual reports is December 15th 2021 and for online reports January 15th 2022. This is a very important step in the processing of information from our councils and fulfills the requirement stipulated by government. Our monthly St. Joseph retreats are ending on December 8th 2021, at 7:00pm, with Bishop Fred Colli celebrating mass and sharing his reflection on St. Joseph. The zoom link will be posted on the diocesan website.

I pray that as we journey towards Bethlehem together this Advent that our faith and hope will be renewed, because Jesus is coming once again and He is coming to give us life!

Wishing you and yours, a blessed Christmas!
Maria



A Year with St. Joseph.

Some of us might have been finding coping with all that the pandemic brought to our lives this past year, but luckily for me, I always had the last Saturday of the month to look forward to. Little did any of us know that a "let's test out my zoom" would be the spark to our Year with St Joseph monthly retreats. In his apostolic letter *Patris Corde* (A Father's Heart) Pope Francis tells us he chose this year because he during this pandemic he came to see that "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked." Many of us are those ordinary people who in our day to day lives are living examples of how to live and survive in times of crisis. St. Joseph was chosen to be our reminder that we all play an important role in day to day living. Learning more about him and loving him more has been a huge bonus during these trying times.

I'll be so every grateful for Colleen's desire to share, Maria's "yes", and Cathy's enthusiasm to do this. Added to this list is gratitude for our monthly presenters and spiritual reflections; Father Mike, diocesan spiritual advisor, Father Terry, Father Jerin, Msgr Pat, Deacon Derek and Linda . How blessed we were to have Bishop Colli with us to bring the year to a close. A big thanks to all who helped as readers and responders and everyone who joined us from across the diocese and other parts of Ontario.

At our last gathering, Bishop shared this prayer with us. It has become a favourite for me along with the one shared by Colleen in the retreat focusing on prudence. (Found later in the newsletter)

Pope Francis' Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
 Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 To you God entrusted his only Son;
 in you Mary placed her trust;
 with you Christ became man.
 Blessed Joseph, to us too,
 show yourself a father
 and guide us in the path of life.
 Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
 and defend us from every evil. Amen.



St. Anthony's Supports St. Joseph's Care Group

Members of St. Anthony's met to pack gift bags for residents in the variety of St. Joseph Care Group nursing homes.

In all they packaged just over 125 bags that I am sure will delight many people across the city.

St. Anthony's CWL wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and the best for 2022.

Gratitude Project

St. Mary's CWL Council in Fort Frances, Ontario, provided cake and cards of appreciation to the staff of the long term care facility at Rainycrest, as well as to the Emergency Measures Response Team, and to the Northwestern Health Unit.

CWL member Micaela Jensen made the presentation to paramedic Kevin Douse.

It had been an especially difficult day at work so the treat was appreciated and enjoyed!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our CWL sisters across the diocese.



Father Mike Mahoney, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor



Angelo Roncalli said on the eve of the Conclave that elected him Pope John XXIII "we are not here to guard a museum but to cultivate a flourishing garden of life." (Pope Francis Evang. Gaud.)

It is also widely attributed to Pope John XXIII that Vatican II was called to 'throw open the windows of the Church and let the fresh air of the Spirit blow through.'

The 'fresh air of the Spirit' is a wonderful metaphor, maybe not historical as the person or group the Pope spoke to isn't verified, it is a powerful image of the purpose of Vatican II.

At the Canonization of Pope John XXIII , Pope Francis said

"In convening the (Second Vatican) Council, John XXIII showed an exquisite openness to the Holy Spirit. He let himself be led and he was for the church a pastor, a servant-leader. This was his great service to the church; he was the Pope of openness to the spirit."

Today as the SYNOD on Synods in the Church is beginning, a couple of quotes of Pope Francis are timely.

- A. the Synod is a Spiritual journey, inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit.
- B. walking together is the most effective way to practise the nature of being Church as pilgrim and missionary people.
- C. on our common journey we evaluate our way of being together as baptized, and our relationships to each other as laity, consecrated, and ordained ministers.
- D. real participation by the People of God is necessary.
- E. the Synod offers us the opportunity to become a listening Church, to break out of our routine and pause from our pastoral concerns in order to stop and listen.

Pope Francis also spoke of the pandemic this month. In a recent talk to the Swedish Academy he said, "the prolonged crisis of the pandemic has tested our capacity to dialogue with others. This is no doubt due to the long periods of confinement and the fact that the entire experience of the pandemic has deeply affected people, often unconsciously. We find ourselves a little more distant from others, a little more reserved, perhaps more guarded, or simply less inclined to join with others, to work side by side, with the satisfaction and effort born of building something together. It is important to recognize this situation, which threatens each of us as persons, since it diminishes our capacity for relationships..."

The Synod on synods - how to dialogue and listen to each other to discern what the Spirit is saying to the Church is a way forward for both the Church and a pandemic weary society. Beginning with our listening within the church to the baptized, we can experience anew the command of Christ to hear His Word and proclaim His Faith.

Holy Family News

Candles and Book of Life Display



At Holy Family Church, we were able to Honour our departed Catholic Women's League members with a special celebration and Mass on November 2nd. We left our Book of Life and our candle display up for the month of November. As well, the Catholic Women's League set up a separate display of candles designated with the names of deceased loved ones which was kept on display for the month of November. These one hundred and twenty-five candles were lit at special Masses held on November 27th and 28th 2021 honouring the deceased members of Holy Family Church. Following this, church members were asked to take home the Blessed Candles in memory of their loved ones.

Holy Family Catholic Women's League Collection of Stuffed Animals (80) and Wrapped Gifts for Teenagers (80) to be given out by the Salvation Army 2021



At Holy Family, the Catholic Women's League held a very successful Bake and Craft Sale at the end of November. We have been collecting items for the Christmas Hampers that we give out each year and for the homeless. We have been collecting small items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoos etcetera, as we have in the past for the homeless. We have also collected stuffed toys and items that we can package for younger children as well as teenagers for Christmas distribution for the less fortunate. Our Mitten and Other tree produced many needed items (hats, mitts, underwear and socks) which will be distributed in our Christmas Hampers as well as to the Homeless. Hopefully, these endeavours will be as successful as they have been in the past.

Holy Family Catholic Women's League Council wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Holy Family Catholic Women's League
Ladies packaging up baking (during Covid)

Holy Family Catholic Women's League have made and packaged Christmas baking for our senior members and those that need some extra cheer this year. Some also received knitted blankets or shawls to keep them warm during the cold months to come.

St Patrick Cathedral December News

Members met in person for the first time since March of 2020. We gathered in the church and had the opportunity to catch up and conduct necessary business.

We completed our instructed vote and approved a covering motion that supported the decisions we had made via email and ZOOM.

Members talked about what they would like to continue and what they would like to focus upon for the coming year. We decided that for the next year we would gather and learn...our sessions will be held in the church and will be an opportunity to revisit some of the wonderful retreats that took place this past year as well as listen to guests whose stories will help us to continue to grow. The topics will be chosen by our members and all in the parish will be invited to attend. We will be embracing the new theme: CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!

We have also decided to continue our outreach programme of donating to both the Dew Drop Inn and the RFDA...monthly collections will be distributed to both by a wonderful team of members. A small group of members have also stepped forward to send Christmas Cards to several in our parish community...what a wonderful blessing!!!

We made a conscious decision to as a council not fundraise this year and use our energy to participate as members of our parish in raising funds for a new roof for the church. Our choices will allow us to grow in learning more about the League and grow in building parish community.

St. Patrick's members are excited to continue together our League journey.

AJK

Prayer for a Prudent Woman (Taken from September Retreat)

“ I wisdom, dwell with prudence,
And I find knowledge and discretion.” [Proverbs 8:12](#)

What does the ancient wisdom of Proverbs teach us about a prudent woman? She is knowledgeable but retrained.

Prudent people don't flaunt their knowledge; talkative fools broadcast their silliness.
[Proverbs 12:23](#) *{pause for reflection}*

Let us pray: **Lord send your Holy Spirit so I will share counsel only when asked, and even then, that I would proceed cautiously. Amen**

“I wisdom, dwell with prudence,
And I find knowledge and discretion.” [Proverbs 8:12](#)

What does the ancient wisdom of Proverbs teach us about a prudent woman? She doesn't have a quick temper.

Fools have short fuses and explode all too quickly; quickly, the prudent quietly shrug off insults. [Proverbs 12:16](#) *{pause for reflection}*

Let us pray: **Lord send your Holy Spirit so my response to snarky remarks from my sisters is gracious and invites the insulter to be kind or inclines me to remain silent as appropriate. Amen.**

“I wisdom, dwell with prudence,
And I find knowledge and discretion.” [Proverbs 8:12](#)

What does the ancient wisdom of Proverbs teach us about prudence? She's appropriately cautious.

A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences. [Proverbs 22:3](#) *{pause for reflection}*

Let us pray: **Lord send your Holy Spirit so if I choose to be a firefighter, I fight only with the covering of protective gear and protective prayer. Amen.**

“I wisdom, dwell with prudence,
And I find knowledge and discretion.” [Proverbs 8:12](#)

What does the ancient wisdom of Proverbs teach us about prudence? She receives correction humbly and openly.

A fool despises his father's instruction, But whoever heeds reproof is prudent. [Proverbs 15:5](#)
{pause for reflection}

Let us pray: **Lord send your Holy Spirit so that when others try to assist me, I reach out with thanks and guard my tongue rather than reacting with cattiness. Amen**

"I wisdom, dwell with prudence,
 And I find knowledge and discretion." [Proverbs 8:12](#)

What does the ancient wisdom of Proverbs teach us about prudence? She recognizes the hope of the bible.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. [1 Corinthians 1:18](#)
{pause for reflection – 30 seconds or so}

Let us pray: **Lord, help us to grow in prudence, to be patient and kind, wise and humble, bold but aware of danger, open to correction and ready to repent. Grow us up in the wisdom of the Cross. In Jesus' wise name we pray, Amen.**

***A favourite prayer
 Chosen by Pauline Krupa, Life Member***



