



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

London Diocesan Council



To: All London Diocesan Parish Presidents, All London Diocesan Spiritual Advisors and all members of the London Diocese Catholic Women's League

CC: London Diocesan Council; Colleen Perry OPC President, Fr. Greg Bonin, Spiritual Advisor

From: Rebecca McCarrell, President;

Date: November 2020

Directive #12

The Gifts of the Season
Adventurous Hope – Abiding Peace – Authentic Joy – Amazing Love

My sisters in the League;

I am writing to you today with several messages, but I hope you will all approach this next journey with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. I have attached my Advent and Christmas messages for you to share with your membership.

COVID RESTRICTIONS

Unfortunately, the pandemic continues, and the 2nd wave is definitely upon us. Our meeting / fundraising restrictions are still in place at this time. Ontario has given us new guidelines of meetings of no more than 10 persons in an indoor unmonitored setting. I have checked with Public Health and the CWL meetings fall into this category. I cannot emphasize enough how important these restrictions are to our aging members. Public Health has these recommendations:

It remains critically important for everyone to continue following public health advice. This includes:

- staying home when ill, even with mild symptoms;
- practising physical distancing with those outside your household or social circle, or at gatherings;
- protecting your social circle;
- wearing a face covering when physical distancing is a challenge or where it is mandatory to do so;
- washing your hands frequently and thoroughly; and
- adhering to gathering limits and rules.

In regards to the recommendations from Bishop Fabbro, he posts his latest news on the dol website. Follow this link to see his most recent information:

<https://dol.ca/news/covid-update-for-october-20-update-12>

BILL C-7 - Euthanasia Legislation

Euthanasia is still a hot topic, and we are being asked to oppose Bill C-7. Please see this blurb from our Bishop's office. The web address will give you complete information.

<https://dol.ca/news/oppose-the-expansion-of-euthanasia-in-bill-c-7>

<h3>A Blessing Not a Burden</h3> <p>Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40</p> <p>Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience</p>	<h4>NEW LEGISLATION COMING</h4> <p>The federal government has tabled legislation to expand access to euthanasia to people who are not about to die, including people with disabilities.</p> <h4>DISABILITY ADVOCATES ARE FEARFUL</h4> <p>A 2019 government report said that people choose euthanasia because of fear of being a burden, loneliness, lack of support, or loss of dignity and meaning. People with disabilities face these issues daily. As a society, we have a responsibility to support the vulnerable, not allow them to be permanently silenced.</p> <h4>WRITE YOUR MP TODAY</h4> <p>Write your MP to let them know you don't want access to euthanasia expanded to include vulnerable people who are not at the end of their lives. It could be someone in your family next or it could be you. To send an email, visit www.canadiansforconscience.ca/federal_government</p>
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Use the link below to automatically generate an email to your Member of Parliament. You can enter your postal code and click "Find Politician" or, if you know their name, select them from the alphabetical drop-down list. The email will be sent automatically.

English: http://www.canadiansforconscience.ca/federal_government

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I have been in consultation with our Ontario Provincial Council in regard to the Covid restrictions that will hamper our AGM in April 2021. At this time, we are planning a restricted annual general meeting that will include voting members, accredited members of each council as well as Life Members and our Executive. Spiritual Advisors will have an invitation to attend if they wish to do so. I have sent out a request for the information from each council for the information of those members who will fill these positions. In the new year, personal invitations will be sent to these people (in wedding invitation style). Replies will be mandatory, and entrance to the meeting will be restricted to those members who have replied. Even with these restrictions in place, we could have over 300 persons wishing to attend. The actual attendance will rely upon the Covid restrictions of that time, and the capacity at the venue that will include social distancing. It is imperative your voting and accredited member information go to your Regional Chairperson by December 10, 2020.

The agenda for each day will be reduced to allow for extra time related to social distancing and cleaning protocols. At this time the tentative agenda will be Monday, April 19: 2020 AGM, Opening Mass; Tuesday April 20: 2021 AGM, banquet; Wednesday April 21: Resolutions, Awards, Elections, Closing Mass.

The Gifts of the Season

Adventurous Hope – Abiding Peace – Authentic Joy – Amazing Love

I came across this message while doing some research on Advent and Christmas seasons in this time of change. I thought it was very fitting to how we must change in celebrating with family and friends this year.

Adventurous Hope: What a positive way to look at our journey! Bethany Anderson in her weekly podcast talks about “The God Blanket”. God is our covering during this time of upheaval. He is our HOPE, He is our covering; BE ENCOURAGED. (<https://www.sessions.blue>)

Abiding Peace: Peace is a state of quiet; it is freedom from disturbance, anxiety, agitation, violence, disharmony, restlessness. “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). We are thankful for Jesus as His Peace brings us harmony, silence, calm, repose, rest, and tranquility.

Authentic Joy: We can find this joy...it may not be easy, but given a little work it is attainable by all even in these uncertain times...find enjoyment...it may be that your will need to change your focus or examine what really gives you joy; laugh and smile...it’s contagious!; stay rested...it is easier to look at the brightside when you are not tired; treat yourself and others with respect...avoid conflicts that mar the joy; find joy in everything you choose to do.

Amazing Love: I was opened to God’s amazing love when reading Ephesians...he loved me before I even knew he existed! He loves me and nothing can change that (Romans 8); how then can we go wrong! Showing love and acceptance to your fellow people, CWL members, those who are poor not only with money but in spirit, and those who are the marginalized will bring you joy and bring joy to those you are in contact with.

Wishing you and yours Adventurous Hope, Abiding Peace, Authentic Joy and Amazing Love not only in this season of Advent and Christmas, but throughout the year.

From my home to yours, Merry Christmas!



Brighten a soldier’s day: Send him / her a Christmas Card: (by Dec 10)

Any Canadian Armed Forces Member, PO Box 5004 Stn Forces, Belleville, ON K8N 5W6



SEND
*Christmas
Greetings* TO

OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN SERVICE
THIS YEAR BY MAILING A CARD TO:

**ANY CANADIAN ARMED FORCES MEMBER
PO BOX 5004 STN FORCES
BELLEVILLE, ON K8N 5W6**



Our Advent Message

The Gifts of the Season

Adventurous Hope - Abiding Peace - Authentic Joy - Amazing Love

This time of year exposes the hopelessness that so many feel because of loneliness and losses. In 2020, these feelings are compounded because of the restrictions of the CoVID 19 Pandemic. It's a tough time of year!

There is always HOPE because Jesus is alive and well. There is always PEACE as the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Advocate walks with us, and never leaves. There is always JOY because Jesus is coming again, and he will reign forever in peace. And God's AMAZING LOVE is always around you.

Keep going. Keep loving. Keep reaching out. Keep hoping!

"Hoping in spite of hopeless circumstances" (Romans 4 ISV) And, you, too, can count on that today!

Wishing you and your families, a safe and happy Advent and Christmas, despite the circumstances.

*Rebecca McCarrell, President,
Fr. Greg Bonin, Spiritual Advisor
And the London Diocesan Council*

— GOOD TIDINGS —

OF
Comfort
&
Joy



Our Christmas Message

This Christmas may be a moment of real challenge to us.

We all flourish through the generous kind of giving to others that creates thankfulness, good will, and grace.

This Christmas we will aim to celebrate where we can together,

but also embrace our community that want to join in the celebration but may not be able.

We hope that Comfort and Joy will enable us to connect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past and to offer God's consoling love in the present.

Celebrate the Nine Lessons and Carols within your own family! This is a tradition from my family, and one of my favourite memories.

May your home be filled with the Comfort & Joy of this Christmas Season!

*Rebecca McCarrell, President,
Fr. Greg Bonin, Spiritual Advisor
And the London Diocesan Council*