



Hamilton Diocesan Council
of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Inspired by the Spirit — Women Respond to God's Call



Directive #2

Pages: 2

January 2018

To: Council Presidents, Council Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Catherine Feren, Hamilton Diocese Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairperson
cc: Diocesan Officers, Committee members

Dear Sisters in the League,

The next few months offer numerous opportunities for enrichment of our faith lives, both within the Catholic tradition and ecumenically with our sisters of other Christian faith traditions. Please consider participating in or organizing any of these events in your councils or parishes:

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, celebrated around the world, will take place either the week of **January 18 – 25, 2018** or the week of **January 21 – 28, 2018**, depending on the practice in your community.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on **February 14, 2018**. Daily meditations will be available during Lent on the provincial website here: www.cwl.on.ca and on the Ontario Provincial Facebook page. I will forward these directly to an email associated with your council daily, at your request. Please contact me by email and I will add you to the distribution list!

The **World Day of Prayer**, takes place on **Friday, March 2nd**. The prayer service this year is prepared by the women of Suriname and the theme is: *All God's Creation is Very Good*. More information, including how you can participate, can be found here: <https://wicc.org/world-day-of-prayer/>

Holy Week Observances: As you know, Holy Week is the annual Christian observance commemorating Jesus' last week on earth and the events leading up to his resurrection on Easter Sunday. This year Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday** on **March 25, 2018**. This year the **Easter Triduum** begins on **Thursday, March 29th** with The Mass of the Lord's Supper, continues the next day, **Friday, March 30th** with Good Friday services and concludes with the Easter Vigil on the evening of **Saturday, March 31st**. You may not be aware that the Easter Triduum is considered to be one liturgical celebration observed over three (3) days.

Easter Sunday: Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord: April 1, 2018

Divine Mercy Sunday: April 8, 2018

World Day of Prayer for Vocations: April 22

Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel: April 26, 2018. The feast of the patroness of the Catholic Women's League of Canada is commemorated in many councils with a special mass and social gathering. Please consider doing so in your community, possibly in conjunction with other councils close by.

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care: This year all councils have been asked by national to organize their own *12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care* on **May 4th**. Provincial President Anne Madden, asks that "all League members find some way to support this day of prayer. The prayer can take place within a parish church, a house of worship, a home or elsewhere. Participation may include a large congregation, a few friends or solitary prayer at home. It is recommended that parishioners, members of neighbouring churches and other faith groups be invited to participate. Where possible, it would be ideal to include the Knights of Columbus and any ecclesial movements or associations in your parish or diocese. The twelve hours can be designed around local schedules."

I encourage councils to consider joining with other parishes in your communities to organize a combined effort, hopefully one in each city in the diocese. Extend an invitation to family, friends and members of your parish communities to pray with you. Offer refreshments and a time for fellowship and information sharing. Consider welcoming and supporting those who wish to share their own unique experiences of giving and receiving the gift of palliative care. Finally, investigate whether your local palliative care facility provides an assisted death free environment and, if so, take a free will offering to support that facility.

Comprehensive resources to facilitate 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care can be found on the national website here: <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Information-and-Resources-final-for-website-910111213.pdf>

As always, please contact me if I can be of any assistance or support in your local council.

May God richly bless you in all you do for God and Canada!