



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

December 2017

To: Diocesan Presidents, Council Christian Family Life Chairs
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Advent – that period of great anticipatory joy – a time of preparation for the celebration of Jesus' arrival in Bethlehem as an infant. The four weeks of Advent are thought to symbolize the four different ways that Jesus comes to us in the world.

- 1) At his birth as a helpless infant at Bethlehem
- 2) At his arrival in the hearts of believers
- 3) At his death
- 4) At his arrival on Judgement Day

As we prepare for the coming of Christ, may we begin our spiritual journey by asking Him to be with us, to guide us, to teach us, to strengthen us and to inspire us during this journey.

"Rejoice in the Lord always" Philippians 4:4

The three Wise Men upon seeing Jesus, bowed down and worshipped Him. How do we as League members bring Christ to the world? God speaks to us in many different ways; sometimes it is through the events in our lives and those around us, through family, or even strangers. Through word and deed may we spread this celebration of Christmas with others.

1. Do things that celebrate Jesus.
2. Do things that share His love.

With your family:

Do savor your parenthood and their childhood ...

- Light a candle, say a prayer
- Read the story of Jesus' birth
- Share the nativity scene and its meaning
- Make crafts or Christmas ornaments of the symbols of Christmas

- Make Christmas cookies together
- Tell stories of past Christmases and your family traditions
- Have a picnic under the Christmas tree
- Take a walk or car ride and look at the Christmas lights
- Reminisce about when they were babies like Jesus
- Have a "blessings" advent calendar – write a quick note of positive attributes that they possess
- Attend Christmas eve service
- Pass out candy canes with the message of the gospel
- Leave special notes to your spouse
- Thank God for your family

With your Sisters in the League:

Do welcome and cultivate friendships ...

- Light a candle, say a prayer
- Celebrate Mass together
- Meet for coffee
- Visit those who are homebound
- Share precious memories of the past
- Go Christmas caroling
- Organize a hot chocolate party
- Call a friend
- Send Christmas cards or gifts
- Light a candle for members who have passed
- Write a note of why they are special to you
- Encourage and support those who are grieving
- Thank God for your friendship, The League, and your Parish community

"Lord God, in the greatest display of love for me, you gave me the gift of your Son. As I contemplate this special gift of your presence with me, give me the strength, courage and wisdom to share the good news of Jesus' birth with others. May my own life always be a reflection of your love to the world."

Inspired by your Spirit!

Joyce Cotter