

*The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Saskatchewan Provincial Council
69th Annual Convention*



*Liturgy Program
June 5 & 6, 2017*

*St. Joseph Calasancius
North Battleford, Saskatchewan*

Prayer Service
Prepared by Chantal Devine
SK Spiritual Development Chair

The Twelve Stars in Mary's Crown/ The Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit

In this the 100th anniversary of Mary's appearances at Fatima, we celebrate and we honor our Blessed Mother who followed the will of God all her life. She was "**inspired by the Spirit**" and said "yes" to what God asked of her. Mary is a model of how each of us should "**respond to God's call.**"

Leader: St. John, the beloved disciple of Jesus and Mary, was privileged to behold a wonderful sign in Heaven. "A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of 12 stars." (*Revelation 12.1*)

Let us prayerfully examine the twelve fruits or virtues of the Holy Spirit as we associate them with the 12 stars in Mary's Crown.

Leader: The Blessed Virgin is the perfect example of **Charity**, the first star.

Right-Side: The Church sees Mary as the highest expression of the "feminine Genius" and finds her a source of constant inspiration. Putting herself at God's service, Mary also put herself completely at the service of others.

Leader: The second star denotes the virtue of **Joy**.

Left-side: Through all the designated virtues describing the Blessed Virgin Mary, she earnestly desires to inspire all of us to be joyous witnesses to others; growing and rejoicing in the Lord who has created us.

Leader: **Peace** is the third fruit in Mary's crown.

Right-side: Mary saw the face of Jesus in all those she met and treated all with the unconditional love she showed her Son. Mary's acceptance of everyone fostered peace wherever she went.

Leader: In Mary, we find the virtue of **Patience**, the fourth star.

Left-side: "Mary's whole life was a continual exercise of her patience; for, as the angel revealed to St. Bridget, 'as a rose grows up amongst thorns, so did the Blessed Virgin grow up amongst tribulations.'" (St. Alphonsus de Liguori)

Leader: The fifth star represents Mary's **Kindness**.

Right-side: O Mother of all people, you know all of our sufferings and our hopes. You maternally feel our struggles. We ask you to receive our cry and take the entire human family under your maternal protection.

Leader: The sixth star represents Mary's **Goodness**.

Left-side: Holy Mary, Mother of God, you have given the world its true light, Jesus, your Son. You abandoned yourself completely to God's call and thus became a wellspring of goodness which flows from Him.

Leader: In the seventh star, we see the virtue of **Generosity**.

Right-side: "Mary said 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her saying "Above all creatures, may you be blessed, you, the handmaid of the Lord who in the fullest way obeyed the Divine call!"

Leader: The eighth star denotes **Gentleness**.

Left-side: Mary, humble servant of God most high, the Son to whom you gave birth has made you the servant of humanity. Your life was always a humble and generous service to those whom you touched.

Leader: the ninth star is the fruit of **Faithfulness**.

Right-side: Virgin Mary, help us to live, like you, the beatitudes of believers, and to dedicate ourselves with unceasing charity, sharing your faith with all of those who seek your Son.

Leader: **Modesty** is the tenth virtue of the Holy Spirit.

Left-side: Our Lord, descending to earth beheld all women; He chose one for Himself who among them all was pleasing. He found her to have a pure heart and every reckoning of perfection. Because of this, He chose her, the pure and most fair one.

Leader: **Self-Control or Strength** is the eleventh star in Mary's crown.

Right-side: Strength of the Blessed Mother was evidenced as her Son was raised on the cross. Mary stood by Him, sharing His suffering. May she, who is our spiritual Mother and patroness in heaven, help us to find renewed strength at the cross of Christ and so come to share in His rising to new life.

Leader: Completing the Crown of Twelve Stars is the virtue of **Chastity**.

Left-side: Mary gave herself, body and soul to God. She epitomizes all that is pure and holy. Let us follow her example by leading chaste lives.

Leader: Let us allow ourselves to be led by our Blessed Mother to recognize that we need the fruits of the Holy Spirit to enter into God's kingdom of justice, love, and peace, Amen.

(Taken in part from: www.catholicdaughters.org)

In recognition of the 100th Anniversary of Mary's apparitions at Fatima, let us recite the **Litany of Our Lady of Fatima:**

Leader:

All Respond:

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for our dear country.
Our Lady of Fatima, sanctify our clergy.
Our Lady of Fatima, make our Catholics more fervent.
Our Lady of Fatima, guide and inspire those who govern us.
Our Lady of Fatima, cure the sick who confide in thee.
Our Lady of Fatima, console the sorrowful who confide in thee.
Our Lady of Fatima, help those who invoke your aid.
Our Lady of Fatima, deliver us from all dangers.
Our Lady of Fatima, help us to resist temptation.
Our Lady of Fatima, obtain for us all that we lovingly ask of thee.
Our Lady of Fatima, help those who are dear to us.
Our Lady of Fatima, bring back to the right road our erring brothers.
Our Lady of Fatima, give us back our ancient fervor.
Our Lady of Fatima, obtain for us pardon of our manifold sins and offenses.
Our Lady of Fatima, bring all men to the feet of thy Divine Child.
Our Lady of Fatima, obtain peace for the world.

O Mary conceived without sin, *pray for us who have recourse to thee.*
Immaculate Heart of Mary, *pray for us now and at the hour of our death.*
Amen.

Let Us Pray:

All: O God of infinite goodness and mercy, fill our hearts with a great confidence in thy dear Mother, whom we invoke under the title of Our Lady of the Rosary and our Lady of Fatima, and grant us by her powerful intercession all the graces, spiritual and temporal, which we need.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn: Hail Mary, Gentle Woman (G&P #426)

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit Prayer Service
Prepared by Chantal Devine
SK Spiritual Development Chair

Leader: **Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call**
Let us quiet our minds and hearts, and ask God the Father to send us the Holy Spirit,
that He may enlighten us to a better understanding of our CWL Theme through our
participation in this prayer service.

Leader: Let us begin with the CWL Theme Prayer.

All: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Spirit of the Living God

open our hearts and our minds

to experience the unconditional love of God.

Empower us with the gifts of your spirit

so that we may

respond to God's call

in joyful service.

Inspire and bless the members of the

Catholic Women's League

so that the fruits of your spirit

May be evidenced in all that we say and do.

Amen

Leader: The Holy Spirit opens our minds to understand what is good and true; opens our hearts to
love one another as Jesus taught us; gives us strength to follow Jesus, and comforts us
with the knowledge that God is always with us.

Father

Gerard Cooper: *Gospel: John 14, 15-17, 25-27*
Reflection

Hymn: *Come Holy Spirit Verses 1,2,3 (CBW III #416)*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (psalm 104)

- All:** Response: *Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth.*
- Right-side:** Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
Wrapped in light as with a garment. **R**
- Left-side:** O Lord, how wonderful are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
The earth is full of your creatures. **R**
- Right-side:** These all look to you
To give them their food in due season;
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
And you renew the face of the earth. **R**
- Left-side:** May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
May the Lord rejoice in His works.
May my meditation be pleasing to Him,
For I rejoice in the Lord. **R**

(Taken from www.rccdsb.edu.on.ca/.../sites/26/2010/06/PrayerstoInvokeHolySpirit)

Prayer for Strength to Do Justice (adapted from Psalm 104)

- All:** When you send forth your Spirit, life is created.
You renew all things from the ground to the living creatures to the skies.
Our prayer is that all things bring you joy, God of love.
Make us part of your work.
Cleanse our hearts from sin into pure love,
Attune our energy to the needy crying out for mercy
Make our soul gentle and full of your justice,
Make our souls firm and full of your compassion.
When I have no answer, send me your wisdom.
For you came and walked with us, teaching, and healing and loving.
Do not stop now but remain with us, teach and heal and love.

(Prayer written by Audrey Krumbach, Taken from: <https://www.rmnetwork.org/newrmn/prayer-for-strength-to-do-justice-adapted-from-psalm-104>)

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Leader: Let us pray:

All: We as members of the Catholic Women's League, celebrate our coming together and affirm each other as women who are rooted in gospel values, called to holiness through service to your people. Help us open our hearts and minds to the challenges presented to us. Help us to open the doors in our lives, doors that challenge us to enter into the fullness of faith, love and joy that you have promised. You have instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit. Grant that through the same Holy Spirit and the seven gifts He bestowed on us at Confirmation, we may continue to grow closer to You.

Leader: **The Gift of Wisdom** – to enlighten our intelligence with regard to faith and Christian life

Voice 1 Wisdom is the most perfect of all gifts. It is the gift of Wisdom that strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, and perfects charity. Through the gift of Wisdom and Christian community, we become aware that God's love and presence can be discovered in every person, place and situation in life. The gift of Wisdom requires of us deep reflection on the meaning of our life experiences, a commitment to listen with humility and give to others of the wisdom entrusted to us through the love of Christ in the Holy Spirit.

Leader: **The Gift of Understanding** – the ability to perceive the truth of God's word

Voice 2: Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Spirit helps us to grasp the truth of our religion. It helps us to gain a deeper insight into God's word. We also have to learn the limitations of our own understanding. Even as the disciples were not able to understand, we cannot understand what the future has in store for us. Understanding is related to the mysterious action of the Holy Spirit within us, far beyond anything we can acquire or achieve by our own effort. As a Christian community we must move inward with Him to a deeper and fuller understanding of this great gift.

Leader: **The Gift of Counsel** – to assist in making right decisions in our personal lives

Voice 3: The gift of counsel frees us from the agony of making difficult decisions all on our own. We are never alone when making decisions. The Spirit helps us as individuals and also as members of the whole Christian community. We may become aware of counsel in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sometimes the gift of counsel reaches us through others who are willing to listen to our problems and work through difficult decisions with us. Counsel has been called supernatural common sense.

Leader: **The Gift of Knowledge** – Helps us to determine what God has revealed about himself and the things he has created.

Voice 4: Knowledge opens our minds to appreciate more deeply the Presence of God in our lives. Knowledge comes to us through meditation, contemplation and affective prayer. It shows us the loving care of God even in adversity and directs us to glorify Him at all times. Knowledge helps us to see the path we must follow and recognize the dangers to our faith. We will gain knowledge of whom and what we are as Catholic Christians by sharing together in worship, instruction and prayer.

Leader: **Gift of Fortitude** – To be able to endure willingly whatever difficulties and sufferings may come our way

Voice 5: The gift of Fortitude gives us the strength to live firmly by faith rather than by fear. Identified with the Sacrament of Confirmation, this gift helps us to choose consistently the right thing to do in spite of difficulties. It is a gift of life-long commitment; of perseverance and of total discipleship. With this gift, the community of believers grows stronger in the Spirit. They do not hesitate to speak out in defence of the poor and oppressed.

Leader: **The Gift of Piety** – This gift begets in our hearts a filial affection for God as our most loving Father.

Voice 6: It inspires us to love and respect, for His sake, persons and things consecrated to Him, as well as those who are vested with His authority, His Blessed Mother and the Saints, the Church and its visible Head, our parents and superiors, our country and its rulers. He who is filled with the gift of Piety finds the practice of his religion, not a burdensome duty, but as a delightful service. Where there is love, there is no labor.

Leader: **The Gift of Fear** – Fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread nothing so much as to offend Him by sin.

Voice 7: It is fear that arises, not from the thought of hell, but from sentiments of reverence and filial submission to our heavenly Father. It is a fear that is the beginning of wisdom, detaching us from worldly pleasures that could in any way separate us from God. “They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and in His sight will sanctify their souls.”

Leader: Let us pray

All: **Come, Spirit of God, with wisdom and understanding, with knowledge and fortitude, with justice and mercy, with courage and commitment, with vision and insight. May we be blessed this day and every day by the God who has loved us into life Give us life according to your promise Give us life according to your justice Give us life according to your word Amen**

(taken in part from: cwl.on.ca)

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The response to our prayers is: *Come Holy Spirit*

1. Let us pray for the Church, that all Christians will open their hearts to the Holy Spirit, to live as true followers of Jesus, with kindness, compassion and love.
We pray to the Lord: *Come Holy Spirit*
2. Let us pray for the world, that the Holy Spirit's gift of peace will take root in human hearts everywhere.
We pray to the Lord: *Come Holy Spirit*
3. Let us pray for people who suffer in our families, communities, and world, that they will be comforted by our "yes" to the Holy Spirit's call to show them God's love.
We pray to the Lord: *Come Holy Spirit*
4. Let us pray for our bishops, priests and all religious, that they might be guided by the Holy Spirit in all that they do.
We pray to the Lord: *Come Holy Spirit*
5. Let us pray for all members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, that the Holy Spirit might fill them with the wisdom, courage and joy in the call God has given them.
We pray to the Lord: *Come Holy Spirit*
6. Let us pray for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit will open our minds and hearts to learn from one another and grow in friendship as followers of Jesus and **respond to God's call.**
We pray to the Lord: *Come Holy Spirit*

Let us unite all our prayers – spoken aloud and in the quiet of our hearts – in one voice using the words that Jesus gave us: *Our Father...*

Please stand

All: CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for bringing us together at this convention. We ask you to fill us with the wisdom and joy of your Spirit. May everything we do be a sign of your Holy Spirit's presence within us, so that as members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada we can joyfully proclaim "*Inspired by the Spirit*" we "*Respond to God's Call.*" We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord. Amen

(Taken in part from www.rccdsb.edu.on.ca/.../sites/26/2010/06/PrayerstoInvokeHolySpirit)

Father: SOLEMN BLESSING – The Holy Spirit

*(Page 20 in the 2016-2017
Living with Christ Sunday Missal)*

CLOSING HYMN – *Come Holy Spirit* Verses 4 & 5 #416 CBWIII