



Spiritual Development Communiqué #11, August 2020

Lorraine Thibeault, Prince Albert Spiritual Development Chairperson

“Yes, it is above all a question of communicating Christ, and helping his uplifting Gospel to take root in the hearts of the faithful. Be strong, therefore, in pursuing these goals. The cause of Catholic education is the cause of Jesus Christ and of his Gospel at the service of man.”

Message of John Paul II To The National Catholic Educational Association Of The United States, April 16, 1979

One of our responsibilities as Spiritual Development chairpersons is the STUDY OF CATHOLIC TEACHING. My focus today is resources available through the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB). The CCCC is the national assembly of the Bishops of Canada founded in 1943 and officially recognized by the Holy See in 1948.

The following are our responsibilities in the area of Study of Catholic Teaching:

- Promote and publicize courses and programs which will contribute to faith enrichment.
- Organize workshops.
- Form groups to study the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, papal documents, *code of Canon Law*.
- Study and act on League resolutions pertaining to this standing committee
- Contact local Catholic information or diocesan centres to determine what materials are available.
- Make use of films, videos and guest speakers.
- Subscribe to Catholic newspapers/periodicals and other publications.
- Promote or establish a parish lending library for adults and children.

We need to ask ourselves if we have promoted programs, organized workshops, formed groups for study, search out information, used films, videos and guest speakers, subscribed to publications and promoted our parish libraries.

I remind you to encourage our members to take in the Summer Speaker Series next week. These speakers were recruited for our 2020 National Convention which was cancelled. Let's take advantage of the wealth of knowledge they have without having the expense of travel and

accommodation. Relax in your home or join a small group at the church or parish hall. At my parish, thanks to our supportive spiritual advisor, we have invited CWL members and parishioners to join us for the Series. With social distancing and the size of our church building, we only have room for 30 people to participate safely, but that's 29 more people than just me.

CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Note: Texts in quotation marks come directly from the CCCB website. [www.cccb.ca]

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops provides material to promote and make known the teachings of the Church. "The texts published and made available by the CCCB include ritual and liturgical books in English and French which have been officially approved for use in Canada, catechetical and educational resources, the national hymnal and psalter as well as printed documents of the CCCB. In addition, CCCB Publications is the official source in Canada for print versions in both official languages of papal and other magisterial documents of the Holy See."

Under the heading **Catholic Church in Canada**, you will find:

- Ecclesiastical Circumscriptions – dioceses, eparchies, military and personal ordinariates, and personal prelature. In Saskatchewan, we have the Diocese of Saskatoon, the Saskatoon – Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, the Archdiocese of Regina, and the Diocese of Prince Albert. The northern section of the province is part of the Keewatin-Le Pas and the Mackenzie-Fort Smith Dioceses.
- Directory of Latin Dioceses, Eparchies, and Ordinariates: "Currently in Canada, there are 59 dioceses of the Latin Catholic Church, 13 eparchies and 1 exarchate of the Eastern Catholic Churches, as well as 2 ordinariates. Each diocese, eparchy, and ordinariate is distinct and autonomous."
- Directory of Bishops and Eparchs: "Bishops exercise their pastoral office and ministry for that portion of the People of God which has been entrusted to them. The Bishops of the Latin Church are appointed by the Pope. In the case of Bishops of the Eastern Catholic Churches *sui juris*, their responsibilities are entrusted to them by their own Patriarch or Permanent Synod with the assent of the Pope as head of the Universal Church. (A Church *sui juris* is recognized as having its own law, disciplinary practices and liturgical tradition). Bishops are assisted in their mission of teaching, sanctifying, and governing by priests and deacons. The traditional term for a Bishop in the Eastern Churches is Eparch and, in the case when he is responsible for an Exarchate, Exarch."
- Regional Episcopal Assemblies: "In addition to being part of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Bishops meet in four regional assemblies: the Atlantic Episcopal Assembly (AEA), the Assemblée des évêques catholiques du Québec (AECQ), the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO), and the Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops (AWCB). These regional assemblies enable their members to deal directly with

pastoral questions related to the Catholics in their regions.”

- **Canada’s Saints and Blesseds:** “A number of men and women, each in some particular way, have shaped the life of the Church in Canada by their holiness of life. Nourished by prayer and the Sacraments and fortified by the practice of the virtues, they spread the Good News in Canada, dedicated themselves to the service of others—especially the underprivileged—scarified life’s comforts and in some instances even gave up their lives in witness to their faith. Over the years, a succession of Popes has recognized these noble men and women, declaring them Saints, Blesseds, Venerables, and Servants of God.” In this section, you can find information on the life, spirituality and further reading of North American Martyrs, Canadian Saints (Saint Marie of the Incarnation, Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, Saint Francois de Laval, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Saint Marguerite d’Youville, and Saint Brother Andre) and Canadian Blesseds.
- **Papal Visits:** Here you can access photos, addresses, speeches and homilies of Pope John Paul II’s visit in 2002.

Under **Faith and Moral Issues:** “The Church’s mission of proclaiming the Gospel in the contemporary world often raises pastoral questions and concerns which must be adequately addressed at the national level. For this reason, the *Code of Canon Law* has assigned certain areas to the common discernment and teaching of the Bishops, including safeguarding the integrity of faith and morals. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, through its **Episcopal Commission for Doctrine** (<https://www.cccb.ca/about/commissions-committees/national-commissions/doctrine/>) and its other **National Episcopal Commissions**, (<https://www.cccb.ca/about/commissions-committees/national-commissions/>) as well as through its President, Executive Committee, Permanent Council or Plenary Assembly, issues public statements, resources and pastoral letters to provide guidance on doctrinal and moral questions facing the Catholic faithful in Canada. These are intended to teach, clarify and therefore maintain, in communion with the successor of Peter, the integrity of faith and moral doctrine in the face of rising challenges and contrary ideologies.” Here you will find the following topics:

- **Church teachings:** “Jesus proclaimed, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news.” (Mark 1:14) The Church’s faith, expounded in doctrine and by catechesis, is “confessed in the Creed, celebrated in the liturgy, and lived in observance of God’s commandments and in prayer....” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 26).” Documents by the Episcopal Commission for Doctrine, Catalogue of CCCB Documents, Magisterial Documents, Catechism of the Catholic Church, and Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.”
- **Life and Family:** “Pope Saint John Paul II taught that “human life is precious because it is the gift of a God whose love is infinite; and when God gives life, it is forever. Life is also precious because it is the expression and the fruit of love” (Homily, 4 October 1979). The dignity of the human person and the privileged role of the family as its source

and protection are foundational to the Church's moral vision for society and of every principle of Catholic social teaching. Pope Francis reminds us that "the welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the Church" (*Amoris Laetitia*, 31). As disciples of Christ, Catholics believe that every person is precious, that persons are immeasurably more important than things, and that every institution and every policy is to be measured by its capacity to enhance the life and dignity of the human person." You will find the following topics: National Week for Life and the Family; Texts and Resources, Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life; and Catholic Organization for Life and Family.

- **Health Care**: "For generations, Catholic dioceses and religious orders in Canada have been major contributors to the development and delivery of healthcare services across the country. The first hospital (Hôtel-Dieu) in Canada was established in 1639 by three Religious Sisters of the Augustines de la Miséricorde de Jésus to care for Indigenous populations living near the French colony in present-day Québec City. This hospital, which also happens to be the first hospital in North America, is still in operation. In addition, there are today 105 Catholic healthcare facilities across Canada, either self- or parent-governed by 43 Catholic organizations, which accounts for 13,738 healthcare beds in Canada. These facilities are supported by 19 dioceses and 14 Catholic sponsors. They span 6 provinces and 27 health regions/authorities." You will find the following topics: Catholic Health Care: The Mission; Pastoral Care of the Sick, Frail and Dying; Palliative Care; Responses to Ethical Issues; Professional Guidelines and Resources; Pontifical Academy for Life.

Under **Evangelization, Catechesis and Catholic Education**: "The Bishops of Canada promote and support evangelization, catechesis and Catholic education across the country. In order to address adequately these needs, the CCCB has established the **Episcopal Commission for Evangelization and Catechesis** (<https://www.cccb.ca/about/commissions-committees/sectoral-commissions/commission-for-evangelization-and-catechesis-english-sector/>) for the Conference's English Sector, which is assisted by the **Office for Evangelization and Catechesis**. (<https://www.cccb.ca/about/secretariat-offices-and-services/office-for-evangelization-and-catechesis/>) The Bishops of the French Sector of the Conference are supported in their mandate of evangelization and catechesis by the "**Office de catéchèse du Québec**" (<https://officedecatechese.qc.ca/index.html>) established in 1961 by the Assembly of Quebec Catholic Bishops (AQCB)." You will find the following topics: Families, Children and Youth; Adults; Catechists; Catholic Teachers; Canada's Catholic Colleges and Universities; Webcasts and Videos; and Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization.

Under **Liturgy and Sacraments**: "In order to address adequately needs and questions concerning the liturgical rites of the Latin Church, which differ in Canada according to anglophone and francophone realities, the CCCB has established two **sectoral commissions**: (<https://www.cccb.ca/about/commissions-committees/>) the **Episcopal**

Commission for Liturgy and the Sacraments (<https://www.cccb.ca/about/commissions-committees/sectoral-commissions/commission-for-liturgy-and-the-sacraments-english-sector/>) for the Conference's English Sector and the "**Commission épiscopale de liturgie et des sacrements**" (<https://www.cccb.ca/about/commissions-committees/sectoral-commissions/commission-de-liturgie-et-des-sacrements-secteur-francais/>) for the Conference's French Sector. Both of these Commissions, and the Conference in general, are assisted respectively by the **National Liturgy Office** (<https://www.cccb.ca/about/secretariat-offices-and-services/national-liturgy-office/>) (in the English Sector) and by the "**Office national de liturgie**" (<https://www.cccb.ca/about/secretariat-offices-and-services/office-national-de-liturgie/>) (in the French Sector). Whenever possible, both Commissions and their respective Offices work collaboratively." You will find Liturgical Publications in English and French, Resources in English and French; and Liturgical rites of the Eastern Churches.

Under **Justice and Peace**: "The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) promotes justice and peace through its **Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace**. (<https://www.cccb.ca/about/commissions-committees/national-commissions/episcopal-commission-justice-peace/>) The mandate of this Commission is to convey the teachings of Scripture and of Catholic social doctrine in the Canadian context, to shed greater light on social issues and to provide instruction on how Catholics may respond to the challenges of our times. On occasion, the CCCB, through the Commission for Justice and Peace or its other bodies, also addresses the highest levels of leadership both in Canada and abroad, advocating directly for the redress of injustice, the relief of suffering, the advancement of peace and security, the protection of religious freedom and of other fundamental human rights." You will find the following topics: Citizenship and the Common Good; Economy; Environment; Peace and Security; Refugees and Immigration; Human Trafficking; Religious Freedom and Other Human Rights; and Restorative Justice.

The above are just a few of the many resources available to us through the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in the area of Study of Catholic Teaching. Be sure to share these and other resources with your parish CWL members.

There is so much we can learn about Catholic Teaching from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, but don't stop there. Search out other sources of Catholic Teaching.

Take care. God bless.