



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
PRINCE ALBERT DIOCESAN COUNCIL



National Theme: Care for Our Common Home

President: Helen Kayfish

Spiritual Advisors: Fr. Dong Doan and Fr. Maurice Fiolleau

December 2019

Spiritual Development Communiqué #5

"He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord." - Luke 1: 14 - 15

- To:**
- Parish Spiritual Development Chairpersons (for action)
 - Prince Albert Diocesan Officers and Chairpersons of Standing Committees (for information)
 - Saskatchewan Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson (for information)
 - Parish Presidents (for information if you have a Spiritual Development Chairperson for your council and for action if you do not)
 - Provincial Communications Chairperson (for inclusion on website)

From: Lorraine Thibeault, Prince Albert Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairperson

Good Morning, Ladies and Reverend Fathers:

The Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Douglas Jeffrey, O.M.I., for Our Lady of Peace CWL Council, offered a beautiful reflection and blessing to each of the members of Our Lady of Peace Council for this Advent season. I was so impressed with the message that I asked Fr. Doug if it would be alright to send it out to each of you. He was very pleased to have me do so. Below is his message:

"In Matthew's Gospel (25:31-40) we read the following: 31 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." 37Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited

you?”⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”*

As we begin this season of Advent, our eyes are fixed on three moments in our journey of faith. We are concerned about how we encounter Jesus here and now. We are preoccupied with recognizing how our God works among us at this moment of our lives. We hope to see God present in our own lives, in the faces and actions of our family and friends, our co-workers and those people with whom we inhabit this planet. We also hope to see God at work in the marvels of creation. But our eyes are not just fixed on the here and now. We are also concerned with how God has come into the world in the person of Jesus. We relive that moment that we might find, in the telling of the story, meaning and purpose for ourselves today. In addition, we want to encourage ourselves and remind ourselves that God is indeed with us. Finally, we want to remember to look forward to our own death and to that moment when we will see God face to face and be drawn into the wonder and mystery of the resurrection and the communion of saints. As December unfolds I encourage you as women committed to your family, to the wider community, to our country and to the Church to deepen your awareness of God’s presence. I invite you each day to take a long loving look at the real. What I mean is this, look at your life as it is and recognize there the hand of God. At times we try to live in an ideal world and so we are constantly looking at how things should be. This Advent I invite you to look at what is and then make choices – small ones – that will lead you closer to the stranger, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned, the lonely, the thirsty and the hungry. Whether you reach out to people far away or here in our own community is irrelevant. What is important is that in some small way we allow the light of Christ which dwells in us to spill over and provide light and warmth to those who are most in need. We need not pronounce the name of Jesus but we do need to do as he would do if he were confronted with the poverty and the need of people. May you have an Advent that inspires your generosity, a Christmas that reflects your gratitude and a New Year that is really an opportunity for you to proclaim in word and deed, “God is with us!”

-Reverend Douglas Jeffrey, O.M.I.

This is also my wish for you and for every member of the CWL.

Take care. Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.