



**Ontario Provincial Council of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Spiritual Development Standing Committee**



**Directive #3**

**Pages: 2**

**Enclosures (1)**

**Date:** January 2016

**To:** Diocesan Spiritual Development (DSD) Chairpersons  
**From:** Colleen Martin, Ontario Provincial Council Spiritual Development Chair  
**cc:** Ontario Provincial Officers, Diocesan Presidents, Bishop Colli and National Spiritual Development Chairperson  
**Sub-Committee:** Verna Lynn Bergeron, Patricia Moore

**Enclosures:** Chart for Report of Deceased Members in Ontario

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***Blesseds/Saints Project***

As you go about your works of mercy emulating the virtues of your chosen Blessed, think of Saint Peter Faber, my chosen Saint and always begin in prayer. I believe St. Faber represents the beatitude Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God. Pure are our intentions in prayer only when we plan to act to support those prayers.

*From St. Faber's diary October 4 1542: "So he who seeks and finds the spirit of God in good works makes more reliable progress than the one who only relies on prayer. To find God in the works compared to finding him in prayer is often like the actual execution compared to the mere desire." (No 126)*

This message also reminds me of this anonymous quote, "Do not ask God to guide your footsteps if you are unwilling to move your feet." Prayer – Action – Repeat .. two perfect companions.



**YEAR OF MERCY  
READING CORNER**

**Open the door A Journey  
to true self** by Joyce Rupp

The rich imagery of opening the door of the heart reveals the vast treasure of who we are and how the sacred is present within us.

**The Lesson of St. Francis: How to bring  
Simplicity and Spirituality into your  
daily life** This book is an excellent introduction to St. Francis and his continuing influence in our world today.

**Listen to Your Blessed Mother**

By Gary Zimak Print-ISBN: 978-1-61636-884-5  
/ E-book ISBN: 978-1-61636-885-2

**Faith, Hope and Clarity: How to Know**

**God's Will** by Gary Zimak Print-ISBN: 978-0-7648-2375-6 / E-book ISBN: 978-0-7648-6864-1

**Keeper of the Book of Life:**

Apparently the last directive and a change in process has caused confusion related to the procedure for ensuring the Book of Life is accurate and up to date. Elizabeth (Liz) Bortolussi has asked that we return to the previous method to hopefully eliminate confusion. Each quarter, the Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairs should report all deceased members to the Provincial Spiritual Development Chair with a cc to the Diocesan President. The Provincial Spiritual Development Chair will pass the information on to the Keeper of the Book of Life (currently Elizabeth) who will then ensure the accuracy of the national list she receives. A copy of the form to use for reporting is attached to with this directive in an older and newer version of MS Office Word. If there are any questions or you have trouble with the form, please do not hesitate to contact me. We still require responses to Liz's emails to the Diocesan Presidents regarding the accuracy of the last 3 quarters.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Week of January 18-25, 2016** Theme: *Called to proclaim the mighty acts of God* (1Peter 2:9) Further information may be found online at [www.councilofchurches.ca](http://www.councilofchurches.ca).

**Pledge cards** to account for individual and parish works of mercy. See National Spiritual Development Communique 7 on the national website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) for instruction.

**Lent is not that far away:** Ash Wednesday February 10. Spread the news that searching "Best Lent Ever - Dynamic Catholic" on the Internet will bring you to a page to sign up for daily video messages that will make this lent the **Best Lent Ever!!** I found the Advent messages very spiritual and relevant so would imagine these will be the same. Pat Moore, sub-committee member, will gift the League with weekly reflections to encourage daily prayer and action on corporal & spiritual works of mercy. When the messages are shared with you, please distribute them widely (through news-letters, email groups, Facebook pages, bulletin boards); in any way you can think of so that Pat's efforts bear fruit.

**Televised mass in honour of the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel**

Taping will take place in Loretto Abbey, Toronto, Ontario on Thursday April 21, 2016 and will be televised on Vision TV April 26, 2016.

**Provincial Convention** planning is underway. You will be asked to support the spiritual program as we discussed in our previous teleconference (nothing too big .. smiles). More information to come on our **teleconference** on February 16 at 7 pm. If you have agenda items or questions you would like answered or something to share, please send it to me by February 3. I will be out of the country from February 6 to 15 and would like to prepare the agenda before I go. I will send a reminder with phone number, access code and agenda a few days in advance of the call.

**Evangelize Mercy** - Submitted by Verna Lynn Bergeron

*"I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbour: the first - by deed; the second - by word; the third - by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me."* (ST. FAUSTINA, DIARY, 742)



By our baptism, we are called to evangelize. Simply stated, evangelization is bringing Jesus forth into the world. If we are to live the Holy Year of Mercy fully, then we must devote time to prayerfully ponder each one of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. What do they mean to us and where will we act in love, to fulfill their intentions. How will we bring Jesus to those in our world, the place where we have been planted in the Body of Christ?

Since we are made in the image of God, begin by contemplating the face of Jesus. Ask Jesus to open the eyes of your heart, that you may see Him in the faces of those you encounter; ask Jesus to open the ears of your heart to hear His words of mercy and forgiveness; ask Jesus to open your mind that you may be present to encounter Him through your acts of mercy.

At the start of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy, each diocese was invited to celebrate their own sacred ceremony to open their diocesan Holy Door. Crossing through a Holy Door is a spiritual journey that signals, as the Holy Father said, "the deep desire for true conversion." Over the next months, let's journey through our diocesan Holy Door, the one opened for us, to receive the Father's mercy, then by deed, by prayer, by fasting, give this gift of mercy to others.

As we journey together through Lent and the celebration of Easter with one heart, one voice and one mission; keep in mind Prayer - Action - Repeat ... PAR.... *Colleen*  
Submitted By: Colleen Martin, Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson