

## Spiritual Development Standing Committee



The Saint I chose to represent my standing committee is Pierre Fabre. Pierre was born April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1506 in Villaret, Duchy of Savoy, Holy Roman Empire, and died August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1546 in Rome, Papal States. Pierre Fabre was beatified September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1872 in Rome, Kingdom of Italy, by Pope Pius IX and canonized December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in the Vatican City by Pope Francis.

Saint Pierre was born to a peasant family and, as a boy, was a shepherd in the high pastures of the French Alps. He had little education but a remarkable memory. He could hear a sermon in the morning and repeat it verbatim for his friends in the afternoon. Saint Faber went to Paris in 1525 to pursue his studies and there he shared his lodgings with Francis Xavier who influenced his spiritual journey.

Saint Pierre Fabre kept a diary of his spiritual life known as his *Memoriale*. Most of it dates from June, 1542 to July, 1543, with some entries from 1545 and a final brief entry made in January, 1546. The diary begins with a quotation from Psalms: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." The diary takes the form of conversations between Fabre and God with occasional contributions from various saints and colleagues. Faber possessed the gift of friendship and was not famous for his preaching but for his engaging conversations and guidance of souls.

Saint Fabre professed that all action should begin and end with prayer to ensure good intention. This and his gift for spiritual guidance is why I chose St. Fabre to represent the Spiritual Development Standing Committee and also is the reason I chose the beatitude "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." The Spiritual Development Chairs are pure of heart in their intentions to draw God closer to members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and members closer to God through the sharing of time and talent to develop spiritual programs and prayers for gatherings and the use of members individually.

With the valued input of our Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Bishop Colli, it was decided this year's Spiritual Program would be a little different. You may have noticed that leaders are not members of the executive in most cases and that many prayers are noted as gifted by Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairs, there are fewer individuals involved in each spiritual program and this afternoon our prayer will include some quiet music to create a prayerful atmosphere. I hope you have and continue to enjoy

sharing in these wonderful prayers so generously gifted by my Diocesan counterparts. Please include comments in your convention evaluation on whether you liked the format to inform future spiritual programs.

In closing, please pray before and after all your good work for God and Canada as suggested by St. Pierre Fabre; in other words pray, act, repeat prayer for which I created the acronym 'PAR'. May St. Pierre Fabre continue to inspire you to keep your heart and intentions pure and your life on PAR as you speak with one voice, show love with one heart, and carry out one mission.

Colleen Martin,  
Spiritual Development Chairperson