



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



***Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call***

Directive #3

Pages: 2

January 2018

**To:** Diocesan Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairpersons  
**From:** Anna Tremblay, Ontario Provincial Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairperson  
**cc:** Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, National Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairperson Jacqueline Nogier  
Sub-committee members: Sharon St Jean, Margie Royle

Happy New Year! May 2018 be filled with health and happiness, and may God pour His love and blessings on you.

**Diocesan Convention Prayer Services:**

It is my hope that the provincial convention will include prayers from the diocesan conventions, as was done last year. To this end, I invite you to send me your convention prayer services. I respectfully request that this be done no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>, to allow me time for drafting the provincial spiritual program.

In a recent directive, National Chairperson of Spiritual Development, Jacqueline Nogier, wrote: "One of the most daunting tasks that chairpersons of spiritual development sometimes face can be finding or creating new prayer services. Many organizations post prayer services online. As long as you receive permission to use and reproduce them, you are not breaking any copyright laws. I have had great luck with the organizations from which I have requested such permission. Always remember that unless a prayer service is something that **you** have created in its entirety, permission must always be obtained before reproducing it in any way. It is important to source these types of services with the name of the organization and the URL." She also reminds us that "Any songs (lyrics, musical arrangement, or audio) are protected by copyright. If we wish to use the written music or lyrics we must get permission to reprint or find items that are "creative commons" or copyright free. If you are looking at reproducing hymns in convention booklets these rules apply."

The coming months are filled with many opportunities to enrich our faith life:

The ***Week of Prayer for Christian Unity***, celebrated around the world, will take place ***January 18 – 25, 2018*** although some communities may choose to celebrate the week of January 21 - 28<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to observe this initiative by attending/participating in liturgies and events in your community.

**Lent** begins with Ash Wednesday on **February 14, 2018**. Daily meditations will be available during Lent on the provincial website [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) and on the Ontario Provincial Facebook page.

The **World Day of Prayer**, takes place on **Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Prepared by the women of Suriname. This year's theme is: *All God's Creation is Very Good*. For more information, including how you can participate, please go to <https://wicc.org/world-day-of-prayer/>

**Easter Sunday: Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord:** April 1, 2018

**Divine Mercy Sunday:** April 8, 2018

**World Day of Prayer for Vocations:** April 22

**Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel:** April 26, 2018

**12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care:** This year all councils have been asked by national to organize their own *12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care* on **May 4<sup>th</sup>**. Provincial President Anne Madden, asks that "all League members find some way to support this day of prayer. The prayer can take place within a parish church, a house of worship, a home or elsewhere. Participation may include a large congregation, a few friends or solitary prayer at home. It is recommended that parishioners, members of neighbouring churches and other faith groups be invited to participate. Where possible, it would be ideal to include the Knights of Columbus and any ecclesial movements or associations in your parish or diocese. The twelve hours can be designed around local schedules."

I would respectfully request that you share your prayer services/events/ideas with me and I, in turn, could share them with other Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairs.

Some suggestions for planning parish council events:

- Extend your invitation to neighbouring faith communities, family and friends.
- Plan your event in concert with *National Hospice and Palliative Care Week* (May 6 to 12<sup>th</sup>) events where possible. Supply brochures on palliative care facilities and services.
- Encourage participation in the 12 Hours of Prayer petition.
- Offer refreshments and a time for fellowship and information sharing.
- Welcome and support those who wish to share their own experiences of giving and receiving care.
- Take a free will offering for a local palliative care facility.
- Discuss ways that your council can assist in this important work.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless and guide.

Yours in service,

*Anna*