



**Ontario Provincial Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Administrative Assistant**

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

Directive #4

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November 15, 2018

To: Diocesan Corresponding Secretaries,
Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers,
Spiritual Advisor, Archbishop B. M. O'Brien, and National Secretary Treasurer
From: Stephanie Spinelli, Administrative Assistant
Ontario Provincial Council

"Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee...to Bethlehem in Judea. He went to register with Mary...While they were there she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger..." Luke 2:4-7

Greetings,

The ground is snow covered here this morning. Mums and pumpkins have been relegated to the compost bin and replaced with pots brimming with evergreen boughs. Winter seems to have arrived early this year!

The season of Advent is about to begin heralding the coming of Christmas and the joy that it brings...a time for celebration with family, friends and community and for reaching out to those we care about whether nearby or in distant places. You may send your greetings electronically or by "snail mail". Given the present rotating postal strikes, the sooner your cards and letters are sent, the better.

On November 2, Canada Post issued its 2018 Christmas stamp. Recent years have seen traditional depictions of the Nativity, in stained glass windows or in the reproduction of Old Masters paintings. A more contemporary and simple sort of folk art has been chosen this year. ***Away in a Manger***, as illustrated by Daniel Robitaille for *Paprika Design*, has at the centre, baby Jesus nestled in his crib with the Christmas Star shining bright above, parents Mary and Joseph lovingly watching over their newborn son. More stars spell out the words Christmas and Noel at the top and bottom of the image...a simple telling of the story of Christ's birth.

Whatever your postal needs, at Christmas time or throughout the year, why not adorn your mailings with this religious stamp, rich with symbolism, as a reminder of Christ's coming and of His abiding presence.

These permanent Christmas stamps entitled *Away in a Manger* are available at your Canada Post Outlet. They can be purchased in books of 12 for \$10.20.

May you be blessed with hope, peace, joy and love during these days of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and darkness,
Send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
Amen

Henri J.M. Nouwen