



Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Spiritual Development Standing Committee

Directive #4

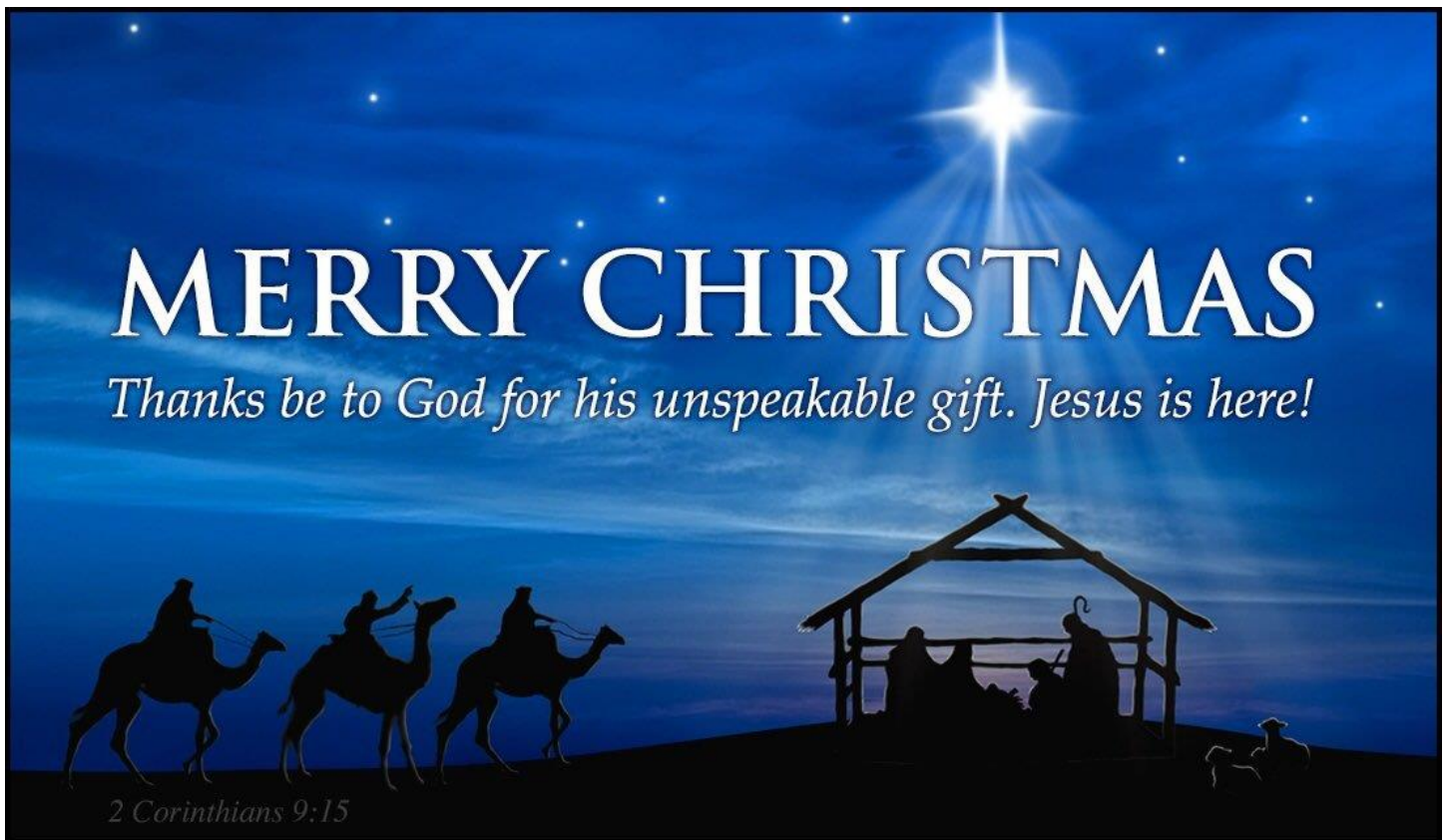
December 23, 2019

To: Diocesan Spiritual Development Standing Chairpersons

From: Emma Rose Rayburn, Ontario Provincial Council, Spiritual Development Chairperson

Sub-Committee: Lisa Fillingham, Anne Vincelli

cc: Archbishop Prendergast, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairpersons, Sub-committee chairperson



How many times have you heard in the past few days are you ready for Christmas? And we reply with usually one of these replies - well just a few more things to do, or all done everything is wrapped and under the tree!! As a store owner I enter into many interesting conversations and just last week I was asked why didn't I have any 12 days of Christmas specials and well when I said the 12 days don't really start till Christmas Day I was sort of looked at like I had two heads. And well, I do believe God sends people into my store for a reason and that day it made me think of how special Advent really is - the waiting, the preparing, the coming. It leads us to the JOY of Christmas and the reason of the season. Well I must say that encounter lead me to look up the 12 days of Christmas and confirm what I was thinking was on track (mostly) which lead me to wanting to share with you The Twelve Days of Christmas "the Catholic version" - which was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, as it was a crime at the time to be a Catholic. Please click on the link to learn more;
<https://www.catholic.org/advent/advent.php?id=2>

The Twelve Days of Christmas - well all the stores and advertising has told us in was to be celebrated leading up to Christmas, but in fact it starts on Christmas day. The Twelve Days of Christmas, also known as Twelvetide, is a festive Christian season celebrating the Nativity of Jesus. For many Christian denominations the Twelve Days of Christmas are identical to Christmastide but for the Roman Catholic Church, Christmastide lasts longer than the Twelve Days of Christmas. We are entering a time of great celebration of many feast days leading us to the Epiphany. Let us pray that when the rest of the world closes the books on their Christmas, that our preparation during Advent allows us to keep the gift of Christmas in our hearts all year long.

However while I was looking this up to share with you I found this other version which I've decided to include as the link above will lead you to what I wanted you to see but Jesus lead me to this song version which I think he wanted me to see;

THE REAL TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the first day of Christmas, JESUS gave to me Salvation full and free.

On the second day of Christmas, JESUS gave to me Everlasting life, and Salvation full and free.

On the third day of Christmas, JESUS gave to me Peace in my Heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the fourth day of Christmas, JESUS gave to me Love for all men; Peace in my heart, Everlasting life, and Salvation full and free.

On the fifth day of Christmas, JESUS gave to me Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the sixth day of Christmas, JESUS gave to me Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the seventh day of Christmas, JESUS gave to me A Body Glorified,
Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my
heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the eighth day of Christmas, JESUS gave to me A Robe and a Crown,
A Body Glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all
men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the ninth day of Christmas, JESUS gave to me Mansions above, A
Robe and a Crown, A body Glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my
soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life, and
Salvation full and free.

On the tenth day of Christmas, JESUS gave to me Streets of pure
gold, Mansions above, A Robe and a Crown, A Body Glorified, Power
from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart,
Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, JESUS gave to me A thousand songs
to sing, Streets of pure gold, Mansions above, A Robe and a Crown, A
Body Glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all
men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, JESUS gave to me
Eternity that's free
A thousand songs to sing,
Streets of pure gold,
Mansions above,
A Robe and A Crown,
A Body Glorified,
Power from on high,
Joy for my soul,
Love for all men,
Peace in my heart,
Everlasting life
and Salvation full and free!

by Ferda Dolunay - October 2005

This could not sum up the meaning of His unspeakable gift more perfectly for me. I hope
you enjoy this prayer and remember to sing it all year long.



**A partridge in a
pear tree...**
The crucified Christ.



**Two turtle
doves...**
Jesus' human and
divine nature.



**Three french
hens...**
The Trinity, one God
in three persons.



**Four calling
birds...**
The four gospels.



**Five golden
rings...**
The Torah or the
wounds of Christ.



**Six geese
a-laying...**
The six days of
creation.



**Seven swans
a-swimming...**
The gifts of the Holy
Spirit.



**Eight maids
a-milking...**
The Beatitudes and
the resurrection.



**Nine ladies
dancing...**
The nine Choirs of
Angels.



**Ten lord
a-leaping...**
The 10
Commandments.



**Eleven pipers
piping...**
The 11 faithful
disciples.



**Twelve drummers
drumming...**
The 12 beliefs in
the Apostle's creed.

I warned you I love music!! When I was practicing with my parish Church choir for Christmas Mass and we sang the song "Do you have room?" I thought I have to share this with my sister in the league, and then guess what - when I went to look up the link I found another song! As advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus and he being our perfect gift I feel he lead me to these two songs/prayers - and from what I have learned Jesus wants us to share our gifts with each other worldwide. Please click on these links if you would like to enjoy these songs written by Shawna Belt Edwards;

Do you have room? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jR7lo9ycKBA>

He is the Gift <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZ4JA3YZCj0>

This Christmas I pray that our hearts are prepared to receive our Lord Saviour and that we may wrap each other with God's love, the most perfect of all gifts, throughout the year.

Wishing you a very blessed and a very Merry Christmas,
Your sister in Christ,
Emma Rose Rayburn
Ontario Provincial Spiritual Development Chair

Dearest God,

Please never let me
Crowd my life Full to the brim.
So like the keeper of
Bethlehem's Inn,
I find I have
no room for Him.

Instead, let my heart's door
Be ever open,
Ready to welcome
The newborn King.
Let me offer the best I have
To Him Who gives me
everything.
--author unknown



"each of us is an innkeeper who decides
if there is room for Jesus"
jeal a. maxwell