

RESOLUTIONS WORKSHOP

February 6-8, 2020

PRAYER SERVICES





Prayer for Resolutions Chairpersons

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your love, for the gifts You have given us and especially the precious gift of togetherness in The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Help me to appreciate my journey as chairperson of resolutions, and the various responsibilities during my term of office. Lord, be with us as our Counsellor and our support as we encounter obstacles and setbacks. Help us to work with enthusiasm, patience and understanding, sharing the joy and strength we, as CWL members, can offer each other. May the tasks we share in the resolutions standing committee be a reflection of the love You alone can give. Let Your love touch others through our lives, deeds and actions. This we ask in the name of Jesus, Your Son, through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel.
Amen

Mission Statement

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

Thursday February 6, 2020

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the opportunity to meet this evening to do your work. May we engage with each other with faith and perseverance. May we manage each situation with wisdom and value. May we speak and serve with integrity and purpose. Help us to shepherd your sheep as we meet together these next few days.

Lord, we invite you to work within us. Amen.

Grace before Dinner

Lord, as we gather here at this table, we pause to give thanks for the bounty of the earth from which this meal came forth. Pour forth your blessing on us, renew and refresh us for our mission, making us effective leaders and wise stewards of your bountiful gifts. Bless this food we are about to share, a sign of your goodness to us, bless those who prepared it, and who service it, and keep us ever mindful of those who go hungry this night. May our meal and our conversation nourish our bodies and strengthen the bonds that unite us in love and faithful service. We ask this through Christ Jesus, Amen.

Adapted from: <https://www.chausa.org/prayers/prayer-library/general-prayers-and-prayer-services/meals-prayers/blessings-before-meals>

Closing Prayers for Thursday—

Even if I write these words with my hands in chains, I still find that much better than if my will were in chains. Neither prison, nor chains, nor sentence of death, can separate me from the love of God, can rob a man of his faith and his free will. Obviously, God gives so much strength to those who love Him and who do not give priority to the world rather than to eternity. The power of God cannot be overcome.

Franz Jagerstatter

Few people have had such a profound influence on my life as Franz Jagerstatter. Having served in the British Armed Forces, it is Jagerstatter's message to the world's military that is most significant to me. Despite efforts by those who want to put him in a safe category, there is no evidence that Franz was an absolute pacifist. A military reservist since his short period of military training in 1940, he was patriotic and there is no reason to suppose that he would have been unwilling to defend his country had it been attacked.

One of the few in his village of St. Radegund, to openly oppose the takeover of Austria by Hitler's Germany, his resistance to the new regime grew in the subsequent years and eventually became a matter of official comment. When called up again in 1943, Jagerstatter, a pious and even rigid Catholic, refused to take the unconditional oath of obedience to the Fuhrer and he said he would take no part in a war which he believed to be quite unjust.

The courage of Franz Jagerstatter obliges us all to find other ways of resolving our conflicts. It is my belief that wars today are bound to be unjust. Nonviolent solutions to conflict are available. The death and destruction that wars cause are beyond any possible proportion.

Since 1975, many pilgrims make their way annually to St. Radekund on August 9th, the anniversary of Jagerstatter's death to come away inspired and renewed in their own commitment to peacemaking. I feel that courage and conviction that allows a man to write such words hours before his execution breathtaking.

By Bruce Kent, Catholic, Peace Activist, Vice-President Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and PAX CHRISTI UK; UK



Friday February 7, 2020

READINGS OF THE DAY----

Reading—Sirach 47.2-11

Responsorial Psalm— (Psalm 18)

R. **Blessed be God my salvation!**

Gospel—Mark 6.14-29

Meditation



Opening Prayer—CWL Prayer for Renewal

All:

God of new beginnings, ever faithful God, we thank You for your constant care for the women of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. We have sought to serve You by service to your people.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with the help of Our Lady of Good Counsel, we continue to discern Your call to seek justice and build Your Kingdom on earth each day. We ask your guidance as we plan the evolution of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Grant us wisdom, the grace of discernment, and strength. May each of us open her heart and mind to Your will and welcome the new life You bring to the League. We ask this through Jesus, your beloved Son and Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

Amen.

Sr. Susan Scott, CAF



Before Lunch Prayers—

Angelus

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

All: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary....

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

All: Be it done unto me according to your Word. Hail Mary....

And the Word was made flesh,

All: And dwelt among us. Hail Mary.....

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray:

All: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Grace before Lunch:

Loving God, bless all gathered here today. Thank you for the blessings of our individual and collective God-given gifts.

Place our hearts the desire to make a difference to our families, to our community, to our country, and to the many cultures and peoples worldwide.

Give us balance in times of distraction and uncertainty.

Help us move towards our goals with determination and always with an abundant sense of humour.

Thank you for food in a world where many know only hunger;

For our faith in a world where many know fear;

For friends in a world where many know only loneliness.

Please bless this food we are about to share, those who prepared it, those who serve it.

For all of this we give you thanks.

Afternoon Spiritual Opening

Clothed With the Qualities of Christ

Together: Jesus, Mentor and Friend, your life and ministry were constantly clothed with love. I hold the image of your loving qualities and virtues close to me as I reflect on what qualities I need in my life at this time.

Left Side: When my spiritual clothes are soiled with negativity and neglect, may I have the desire and energy to clean them.

Right Side: When my spiritual clothes droop, sag and do not fit, may I have the wisdom and determination to let my words and actions fit my values and beliefs.

Left Side: When my spiritual clothes need changing, may I have the ability to make good decisions and the courage to follow through with the necessary changes.

Right Side: When my spiritual clothes are torn and need mending, may I make amends and be open to forgiveness and reconciliation.

Left Side: When my spiritual clothes are not accepted by others, may I have the self-affirmation to be my true self and not give in to the demands of others.

Right Side: When my spiritual clothes become thin and frayed, may I strengthen them with a garment of loving-kindness.

Together: Jesus, transform all that I am and all I do into the kind of love that permeated your presence. Clothe me with your love and grant me grace to be truly kind and caring. May my spiritual clothes be spun from gold of your goodness and last into eternity. Amen.

Adapted from Out of the Ordinary 2000 by Joyce Rupp.
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Closing Prayer:

Reader: Today we are asked to look at our lives, personally and corporately, and to renew life, to nurture life, to share life in ways we have not done before. We are called to root ourselves more deeply in God, to reach within ourselves to take new risks and perhaps, as in the book of Ruth, to give up our homeland—the way things have been, the way we have always done things. We are called to love who we are in God so much that we have no alternative. In doing this, we will discover a new future, a new life because we have become fertile again.

All: Loving God, we celebrate Your faithfulness and love, and praise You for the wonders You have worked through women and men of faith throughout history. Your presence within us enables us to claim our strength and our need, and to take risks in the service of Your people.

Continue to root us more deeply in love that any life that results from our efforts might be an expression of Your truth and love. We ask this through Your child, Jesus, Your own word and gift of love. Amen.

Taken from More than Words, Prayers and Ritual for Inclusive Communities by Janet Schaffran and Pat Kozak, Crossroad Publishing as found on CWL National Site 700 Series Prayers and Hymns





Saturday February 8, 2020

Readings of the Day

Reading: 1 Kings 3.4-13

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 119

Response: **Lord, teach me your decrees.**

Gospel: Mark 6.30-34

Meditation



Opening Prayer:

Love: The Principle Virtue

Love is the fundamental Christian virtue that permits us to abide in God. Love should not exclude anyone and it should be persevering in spite of counter influences, oppositions or discouragements.

According to St. Augustine, love is an attraction, a movement of the soul toward God because of himself, and an attraction toward other people because of God.

Think of the symbol recognized by all Christians, the cross. It consists of two cross bars. One, extending vertically, reminding us of our relationship with God; and the second, extending horizontally, reminding us of our relationship with others.

A relationship with God is good but does not fulfill God's plan for us to be the best that we can be. In order to fulfill our Christian destiny, we must also extend our love of God to show love to others as Jesus instructed.

Love is essentially necessary, so that without it all our efforts are in vain, no matter how much good we accomplish. St. Paul in emphasizing the importance of love, writes: "If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong and a clanging cymbal." (1 Corinthians 13:1)

The same spirit which makes us love God also prompts us to love our neighbour. This is the Holy Spirit, the spirit of love, inasmuch as God is love... The love of others and of self is to be motivated by our love of God.

Scripture teaches us how we are to love God: *"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind"* (Matthew 22:37) The heart is the intellect, the soul is the will, and the mind is the memory. All these faculties, including all our thoughts, our entire consciousness and our whole life, are to be returned to Him from whom they were originally received. Therefore, everything that we are and everything that we have it to be given to the Lord who is the object of our love.

Scripture also teaches us how to love others: *"God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: He sent His only Son into the world so that we might have life through Him"* (1John 3:14) ... *If God so loved us that He gave his only Son, ought we not to love each other? Christ said: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another"* (John 13:14)

Together: Our Father

Adapted from *St. Anthony of Padua: Seek First His Kingdom* ISBN

Before Lunch:

Angelus

Grace Before Meal:

Lord, thank you for family and friends, thank you for times like these, where we can gather together, share in food, drink and relax. Please bless this meal, and all that it means. May the food nourish us, and the fellowship enrich our lives. Most of all, may we always invite you into our homes, and into our hearts. Amen.

Thank you for attending and travel safely home!

