



## December 2021 Edition

Featuring the Alexandria-Cornwall Diocese and OPC Organization

### "Care for our Common Home"



## Colleen's Communications

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***"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in your faith, so that in the power of the Holy Spirit you may be rich in hope." –***

***Romans 15:13***

Advent is a time for celebrating our faith with peace and joy. Take in every moment, take time to breathe, take time to pray!

I pray every day for the continued success of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Preparations are underway across the province for in person meetings and conventions. It has been a long time! I want to invite each of you to the Ontario Provincial Convention which will be held in Ottawa at the Ottawa Conference and Event Centre July 10<sup>th</sup> to July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Registration information will be available by mid-February 2022.

For almost 2 years we have been unable to meet in person. The 2022 convention will be a perfect opportunity to celebrate our sisterhood. The Convention Planning Committee has worked hard to

fundraise for the success of this long awaited in-person convention. To purchase these fundraising items, please contact: Sue Ann Soulliere by email at sueannsas@bell.net or by

telephone at 613-979-5757. The fundraising poster can be viewed on the homepage of the OPC website [cwl.on.ca](http://cwl.on.ca). If the fundraisers are not for you, please consider a donation to the cause. All donations will be graciously accepted.

Please be safe while gathering this Christmas season. Be mindful of yourself and others. I am so looking forward to seeing you all in the spring.

From my house to yours, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Yours in faith,

*Colleen Perry*



## **Advent Greetings from Spiritual Advisor**

Some people find repetition boring. "Same old, same old" they say. "Show me something new. Let's do things differently. Be bold and daring! Who's game for an adventure?"

As you have noticed, seasons repeat themselves over and over again. Events within those seasons repeat over and over again. Even though there is likeness from year to year, every year brings along its uniqueness. If you believe God makes all things new, then every day is new and different even though you live within a cycle of seasons and reoccurring events.

Some people dread change. Anything out of their control brings them to a world of anxiety, of too many unknowns. Such people enjoy the predictability of routine, of well-planned days, of laid out expectations. Rites and rituals usually bring them comfort and reassurance. This past year, due to the pandemic, the loss of normalcy, of usual gatherings and events, the change and restrictions to our habitual ways of doing things was difficult for many.

So, in light of this coming Advent season, what approach will you have to it? Will it be a boring, repetitive liturgical season or will you experience it with expectation of something new? Will the symbols and rituals of Advent bring you solace and comfort? Or will you allow the ongoing restrictions of the pandemic keep you in frustration and grief?

We are all given freedom to decide for ourselves how we want to prepare and welcome these four weeks preceding Christmas. I pray you may find in yourselves and with the help of your Christian community a desire for more of God's providential grace. Advent is a time of longing, of vigilant waiting for better things to come. In the midst of our long dark winter nights, comes a Light that radiates warmth and hope. We await the coming of no one less than Christ our Saviour, whose victory over death and evil, brings us peace and a taste of heaven.

Regardless, if you are a person seeking change in your life or simply one who longs for stability and familiarity, this Advent season, you will find answers to your prayers. Simply enter this journey with faith and renewed trust in the Lord. Seek to please people around you. Be of charitable service. Be Christ-like towards the poor, the sick and needy. Find joy in sharing the Gospel message. Don't ponder too long on your problems. Surrender them to the Lord and turn to the Immaculate Conception for her maternal intercession. With such an approach to Advent, you will find Christmas to be most meaningful.

Blessings to all the Catholic women of our league and to your families. Wishing you a most holy season of Advent and a joy-filled experience of our Lord's Nativity. Merry Christmas!

✠ Marcel Damphousse  
Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall



## Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Council

Dear Sisters in the League

It is a crisp cold morning as I reflect on what our small diocese in the eastern part of the province has accomplished through COVID.

It has been a time of joy and hope which seems fitting with Advent starting as this newsletter comes to print.

Our Diocesan Council had its first partial virtual Annual Meeting of Members at the end of May. Two councils in our Diocese celebrated 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. There were Ordinations – Priest and Transitional Deacons. These events were so beautiful to witness. In October, our Diocesan Council had its first in person meeting in over a year. Mass was celebrated and then the installation of our new Spiritual Advisor and Diocesan Executive. Presentations for a New Life Member and because of COVID, recognition to 2 ladies for the Social Justice Award. There were 4 Rosary Rallies in our Diocese on October 16<sup>th</sup>. What a special way to come together and give thanks to our Blessed Mother. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, our Diocese held a Healing and Reconciliation Mass in Cornwall. The ladies from St. Regis were in attendance and it was such a beautiful mass. There was a Smudging Ceremony, and the St. Regis Choir sang a moving rendition of Our Father and the closing hymn in Mohawk. There are no words to describe this evening.

As you can tell, our small diocese has kept the faith and continues to do the works that we are called to do with Our Lady of Good Counsel watching over us.

Wishing each one and your families a spirit filled Advent, a wonderful Christmas and all the best in the New Year.

Blessings,  
Angela Gaudet  
Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan President



A special blessing from Fr. Steven Gaudet bestowed on his parents (George and Angela, Diocesan President) and his grandfather Adolphe Gaudet.



## ST. COLUMBAN COUNCIL - Celebrating 100 years, 1921 – 2021

On the afternoon of February 22, 2021, the members of St. Columban Council arrived in the church in Cornwall to celebrate 100 years of service to God and Canada. It was exactly 100 years since the presentation of the charter was made to Mrs. A.L. Smith, President. The women in the parish were not new to serving their community with faith and charity. Often, they fundraised for a local orphanage, a seniors' home, or the community hospital. As a need grew across Canada for a national organization to comfort and assist immigrants and refugees escaping the end of the Great War in Europe, Catholic women in all the provinces welcomed the founding of the Catholic Women's League and a new mission.

Gathering members to celebrate this Centennial proved to be a challenge living under the Covid pandemic restrictions. Yet twenty-nine members attended the special Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Father Ernest Emeka Emeodi, Spiritual Advisor to the Council on that Monday afternoon.

Before the Eucharistic Celebration began, Anne Vincelli, Life Member, greeted the ladies in attendance with a short address recalling the women who built the history in the parish. Following the Mass, Lynn Pomainville, President Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Council congratulated the members on achieving the 100-year milestone and presented a certificate of congratulations on behalf of the Ontario Provincial Council to Barbara Champagne, President.

Donna Villemaire, Membership Convenor, assisted Barb Champagne, President, with the recognition of service pins to the members present. As members departed, Teresa MacInnis, Life Member, and Dana Fry, Past President, distributed Our Lady of Guadalupe prayer cards, and a treat bag of cookies accompanied by a tea bag to enjoy and reminisce on the year past at their leisure at home.

A century has passed, and we now embark on the next 100 years with the same faith and charity to help our community as we live our mission in a league of Catholic women.



In the picture are members with certificate of congratulations presented from the Ontario council, by Diocesan president Lynn Pomainville.

Back row is Anne Vincelli, Anne Gauthier, Isabel Lalonde, Lynn Pomainville, Donna Villemaire, Teresa MacInnis.

Front row Kelly Poitras, Dana Fry, and President Barbara Champagne.



A special mother daughter moment from St. Francis de Sales Council in Cornwall. President Marlene Morrisette presents her mother Cecile Pilon with Insignia pin.

## Cornwall Social Justice Award

We were honoured to be able to present 2 awards to two very deserving ladies. Due to Covid we presented both this year. 2020 recipient Barb Champagne and 2021 recipient Miriam Wheeler. These two ladies have shared their God given talents to help many others through their social justice actions.

Congratulations Ladies!

May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide you and bless you.



Diocesan President Angela Gaudet  
and Miriam Wheeler

To the left - Barb Champagne and Diocesan  
President Angela Gaudet

Rosary Rally across our Diocese - From East to West, we met and prayed.



Pictured below, ladies from St. Peter's Council at the Cornwall Rally. The ladies that met at Our Lady of Grace in Ingleside. There were also a group at St. Finnan's Alexandria and St. Bernard's in Finch that prayed the rosary.



### **Do you believe in the power of prayer?**

A few years back when then Fr. and now Msgr. Kevin Maloney as Diocesan Spiritual Advisor requested that the members seriously take on praying for vocations to the priesthood – the members did!



Introducing the 3 Amigos - also known as Transitional Deacons.  
Left to right Deacon Connor O'Hara, Deacon Kevin Burgess and Deacon Marc Gaudet.



## St. Finnan's Council, Celebrating 100 years - 1921-2021

Members of St. Finnan's Catholic Women's League and their invited guests gather on the steps of St. Finnan's Basilica in Alexandria, Ontario on September 12, 2021, following a Mass of celebration for the council's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. St. Finnan's Council was inaugurated on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1921, one year after the League was nationally organized. Parish Presidents or their representatives from the other eight Alexandria-Cornwall CWL Councils, the Diocesan Executive Council and Life Members were invited to the centennial celebration.

At the top of the photo, seated in the Basilica doorway, is Nellie Barton, 28-year-member of St. Finnan's council, whose 100<sup>th</sup> birthday was April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. After Mass, the celebration continued at a lively luncheon reception at Maison Shalom House. Presentations by Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan President Angela Gaudet, service pin awards to St. Finnan's members, the presentation of National Centennial pins to the Council's Past Presidents, a recap of the year's activities, and a blessing by Spiritual Advisor Rev. Jonathan Blake were highlights. An Ivory Silk Japanese Lilac tree was planted at the Basilica in recognition of a century of spiritual enrichment and faith-filled service "for God and Canada".

St. Finnan's CWL Council reflects on the past with gratitude and looks to the future with faith and hope. Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!



Nellie Barton looking sharp at 100 years young!  
May the blessing of the Lord be upon you.  
Isn't that smile contagious?



Installation of new executive council at our general meeting which was our first-time meeting in person this year! Masked and ready to go...



Left to right: Anne Vincelli, Mary Ellen Villeneuve, Frances O'Dair, Angela Gaudet, Lynn Pomainville, Linda Rines. Emma Rayburn, Joan Lawson, Dana Fry, Lucy Rolland, Diana Murray. Msgr. Kevin Maloney, Fr. Augustine Obago, Fr. Dan Van Delst. Missing Linda Morrow and Thelma Racine.

At the in-person meeting, a Prayer Service was held for the Presentation of Life Membership for our newest Life Member Emma Rose Rayburn of St. James Council.

In this photograph, Life Members who were present and the congregation bestowing a blessing.



A unique collaboration with the Service Club of Cornwall and District the Alexandria Cornwall Diocesan Council, a collection of JELLO annually done for the Christmas Food Baskets. Photograph of St. Peter's Council getting in the spirit!

## Mass for Healing and Reconciliation

The journey to healing and reconciliation is one that will take time and require concrete action, ongoing dialogue, and authentic partnership. We are committed to these steps. Celebrated Mass with the sisters in Christ from St. Regis on Thursday, November 18th. Deacon Guy Cote's homily was inspiring, members left the Mass with healing hearts prepared to work on the next steps together.



Left to right is Angela Gaudet, Dr. Rose-Alma J. McDonald, Bernice Lazore, Elizabeth Sunday, Mildred White, Carole Ross (back row).

The two in front on the right are Judy Cole (left) and Salli Ann Adams.

Back row: Fr. Tom Riopelle and Deacon Guy Cote.

Dana Fry Diocesan Spiritual Chairperson (missing from photo was very instrumental in coordinating the spiritual program).





## Healing in Action

Michelle Sturgeon a new member of Our Lady of Grace/ St. Pius X Council with the display of shoes representing the deceased children in the unmarked graves at the Residential schools. The shoes collected were donated to an orphanage in Nigeria and winter boots donated to local charity.



**FEAST OF ST. PADRE PIO**  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

✠ HEALING PRAYER

*Beloved Padre Pio,*  
Today I come to add my prayer to the thousands of prayers offered to thee every day by those who love and venerate thee. They ask for cures and healings, earthly and spiritual blessings, and peace for body and mind. And because of thy friendship with the Lord, He heals those thou doth ask to be healed, and forgives those thou forgiveth. In thy kindness, please help me with my own special request, for the the grace of healing and deliverance of my beloved, who's in pain and suffering at this very moment. And above all, with thy prayer, may God grant me the grace of living in conformity with the death of Jesus, to arrive at the glory of the resurrection. Bless me and my loved ones. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER (3)

@junevays



## Organization

The last two years have been difficult for everyone, but we must do whatever we can to keep going as best as we can. Here are some topics to consider.

### Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

Most churches are open with limited capacity and some councils have been meeting with social distancing. Whatever your situation, do your best to keep in touch with members. Find creative ways to keep members informed and interested. Publish newsletters in the parish bulletins, send the news in cards and emails or call the members who do not have computers.

All councils should have started to collect membership dues for 2022. The per capita fees are the same amount for this year and must be **sent to the national office before February 28, 2022.**



### Leadership Development

The **Executive Orientation Workshops** are now available on the National Website [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca). The Workshops can be found in the "To Organize/Resources/800 Series Workshop/Executive Orientation" Number 828. Each of the ten modules are listed and the option is given to download either the recorded or power point versions. Every member holding an executive position at every level of the League should be introduced to this information.



### League Resource Material

The League has many publications to inform everyone on how the organization's work is conducted. Every member of every executive should have a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws Booklet. Executive members should be familiar with the information given in the Policy and Procedures Manual and Executive Handbook. There are countless other publications which provide valuable information on a variety of topics. They are available either for purchase or can be accessed online on the national website.



## Annual Reports

As a not-for-profit organization, the League is mandated, by law, to have every level of the organization complete annual reports and to hold annual meetings. Information about annual reports has been sent out. If councils are submitting paper copies, they must be sent to national office by December 15, 2021. If reports are submitted on-line, the deadline is January 15, 2022.



## Life Membership

Life members are knowledgeable members and available to mentor members at all levels. Councils are encouraged to ask life members for assistance, for them to act as mentors and to offer workshops to educate members at all levels.



.....Submitted by Linda Squarzolo, OPC Organization and President-Elect



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## **Bishop Pappin Bursary Fund**

Further to my last communique, we are most grateful for your continued donations to assist seminarians who are discerning their call to the priesthood.

Donations can be made at any time. Please make cheques payable to:

Ontario Provincial Council of the CWL

with Bishop Pappin Bursary in the memo line.

Mail cheques to me:

Marie-Theresa Lamphier, OPC Treasurer

1617 Katella Ave.,

Windsor, ON N8P 1P8

Thanking you again for your support and generosity!

.....Submitted by Marie-Theresa Lamphier, OPC Treasurer



## LEGISLATION

The work for this new term (2021-2023) started early with the distribution of the excellent workshop developed by Betty Colaneri, past national chairperson of legislation (2018-2021). It is available to view on the national website under "To Organize/Resources/Series 800: Workshops #829. I encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful resource – present it at your meetings.

As Betty outlines legislation gives us the opportunity to make a difference, be advocates for change, be a voice for those who have no voice, affect change to better out country and to defend out Christian values.

As members, we can affect legislation by:

- studying the legislation on important issues
- being informed and keeping a finger on the pulse
- monitoring *Hansard* (verbatim account of what is said in Parliament)
- monitoring government publications and websites
- monitoring newspapers and other social media,
- writing letters to our MPs and MPPs
- spreading the word among our members, families and friends, and
- praying.

Parliament has reopened and chairpersons are now able to monitor both the federal and provincial government's work. If anyone needs assistance in finding websites to research, please feel free to contact me.

**Become a CWL Special Agent T.A.G. and begin Tracking Actions of Government.**

**Sleuth away!**



Acknowledgement and thanks to Betty Colaneri, past national chairperson of legislation, for the wonderful workshop!

.....Submitted by Submitted by Betsy Currier, OPC Legislation Chair



## **An "Eye on Education and Health" ...**

**"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."**

(Our Mission – CWL national website)



As I write this newsletter on November 25<sup>th</sup>, I realize that it is **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** (sponsored by the United Nations). Please pray for all those who are suffering as victims of violence.

National Chairperson Margaret Schwab pointed out in her latest Communiqué #03, *"According to the United Nations, one in three females will experience sexual violence from partners, non-partners or both. Females face potential violence in their homes, workplaces, schools and communities as well as online."*

I encourage you to read Margaret's entire communiqué found at <https://cwl.ca/communiqué-3-education-and-health/>.

In it, Margaret mentions a wonderful new resource that is now available, which is summarized below.

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### **Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care**

This Toolkit was launched in November 2021 and was a four-year project by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in partnership with experts from the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Canada, Dominican University College and Pallium Canada. This resource will assist parishioners in growing in their understanding of palliative care and church teaching on end-of-life questions.

The Toolkit is found on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) website (<https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/suffering-and-end-of-life/horizons-of-hope-a-toolkit-for-catholic-parishes-on-palliative-care/>)

Members are encouraged to access this valuable resource and to pass along the link to family, friends and co-workers. There is also a promotional video to watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLm0YG8uX8E>

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On November 28<sup>th</sup>, we begin the season of Advent ... a time of preparation and hope. As members, we are blessed in so many ways and we have much to be thankful for!

.....Submitted by Karen McDonald Education and Health Chairperson



## KEEPING THE LONELY IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS

### FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF THE 2022 ONTARIO CWL PROVINCIAL CONVENTION

**Convention Sling Bag + notebook - \$20.00**  
**Plus, shipping and handling 17.5" x 13"**  
Side-zippered main compartment on this 600-denier polyester bag with two front pockets. Adjustable shoulder strap and a built-in key ring.



**Rosary Bracelets with CWL Charm - \$30.00**  
**Plus, shipping and handling**  
Available in various combinations of beads. Hand made by our sisters in the League.



**To purchase these fundraising items, please contact:**

**Sue Ann Soulliere by email at [sueannsas@bell.net](mailto:sueannsas@bell.net) or by telephone at 613-979-5757.**

**Please write cheque to "CWL 2022 Ontario Provincial Convention."**

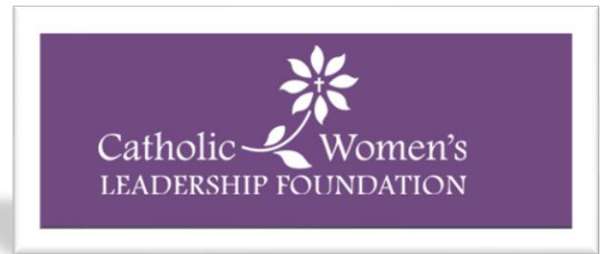
**Mailing address: 941 Raftsman Lane, Orleans, ON K1C 2V3.**

**or e-Transfer: [cwl2022opconvention@gmail.com](mailto:cwl2022opconvention@gmail.com)**



The National CWL invested \$500,000 in the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation because it believes that strong Catholic women leaders are our future. As the league develops and changes, our current and future leaders need enhanced skills to encourage women to join, to follow and to enhance their faith.

Just as Jesus first did with the apostles and then his believers, his words and actions exemplified our faith. Walk in Jesus leadership shoes, apply to the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation today!



<https://www.cwlfcanada.ca/post/2022-call-for-candidates>

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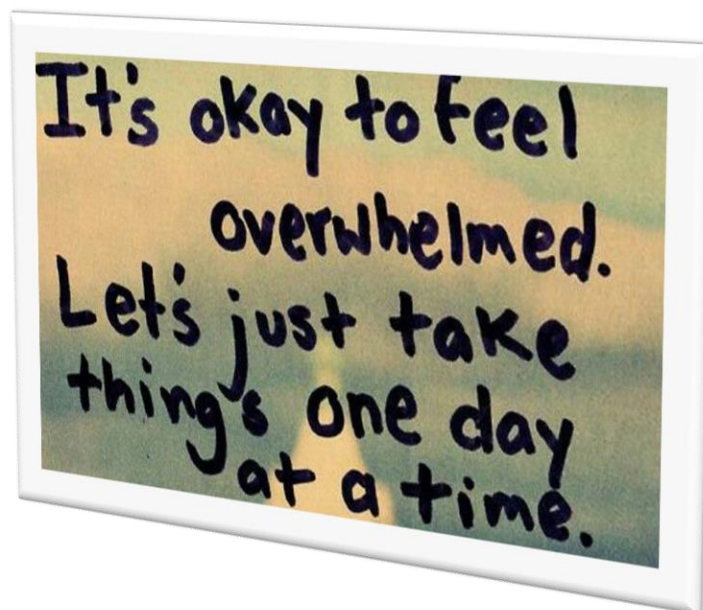
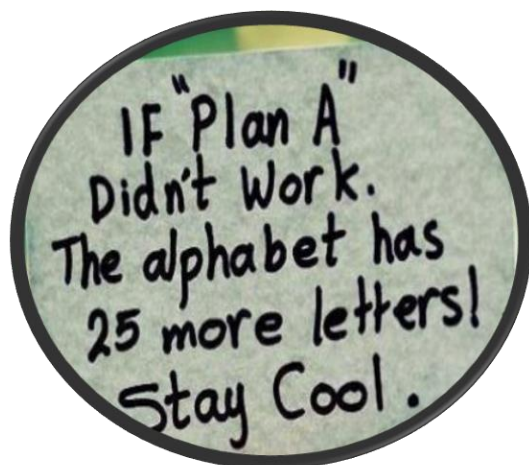
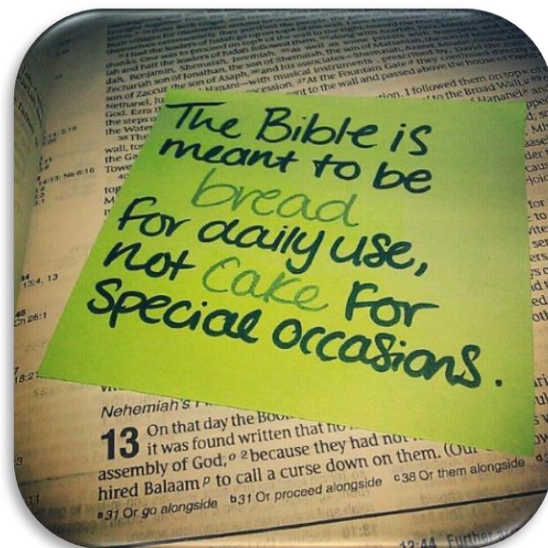
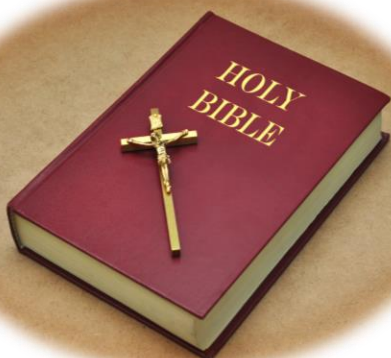
## Beginning of Advent

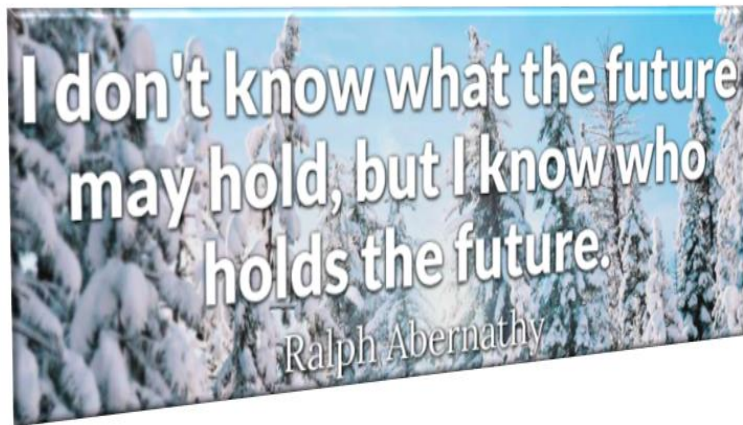


Food

for

Thought





*She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

*Matthew 1:21*