

Not long after I was told that there was no other name on the ballot for President-Elect in 2022, I found a card someone had given to me many years ago; it is bright yellow with a smile and says as you see here ... This smile's for YOU! At the bottom, in tiny print you may not be able to see, it says Rejoice in the Lord Always. Philippians 4:4. Not too many days after, I heard the bible quote again and then searching for a fun song on Joy for a zoom workshop, I discovered this....

Rejoice in the Lord Always!

PHILLIPIANS 4:4



{Play Rejoice in the Lord Always}

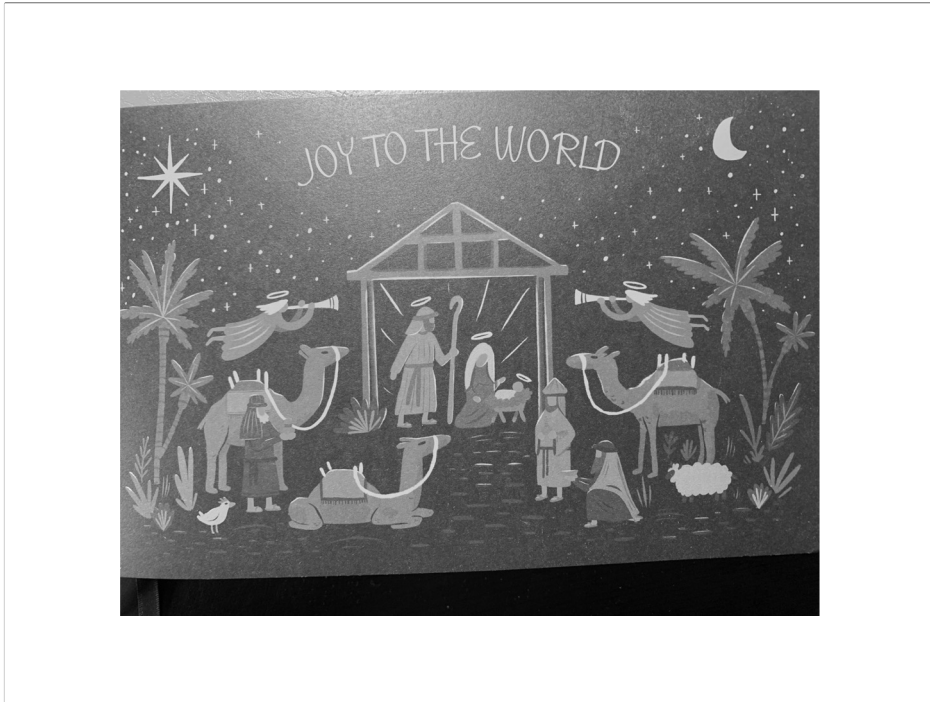
I then read the Letter to the Philippians in The New American Bible – Revised Edition, The Catholic Journaling Bible, and in the explanation for this passage it

says....*Imagine, Paul's letter to the Christians at Philippi was written while he was in prison somewhere (Phil 1:7,13,14,17), indeed in danger of death (Phil 1:20-23).*

Although under guard for preaching Christ, Paul rejoices at the continuing progress of the gospel (Phil 1:12-26) and expresses gratitude for the Philippian's renewed concern and help in an expression of thanks most clearly found at Phil 4:10-20. Much of the letter is devoted to instruction about unity and humility within the Christian community at Philippi (Phil 1:27-2:18) and exhortations to growth, joy, and peace in their life together (Phil 4:1-9). I feel if we practiced this teaching Paul brought from

Jesus' teaching of his Apostles, we would attract people to The Catholic Women's

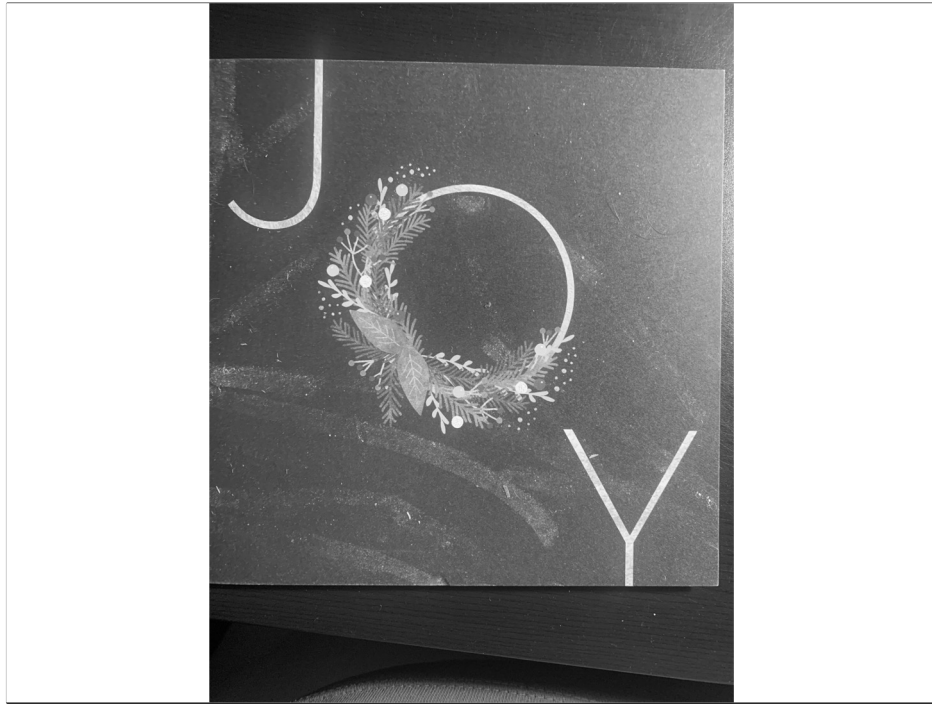
League of Canada in droves. Many people today are searching for an answer to the discord in this world and joy in our Lord, Jesus Christ and in our Christian community is the answer. I still wondered if this was truly the way the Lord was asking me to go and then came Christmas... the first card I received was this .. (Turn to next slide)



The second card was this ... (turn to next slide)



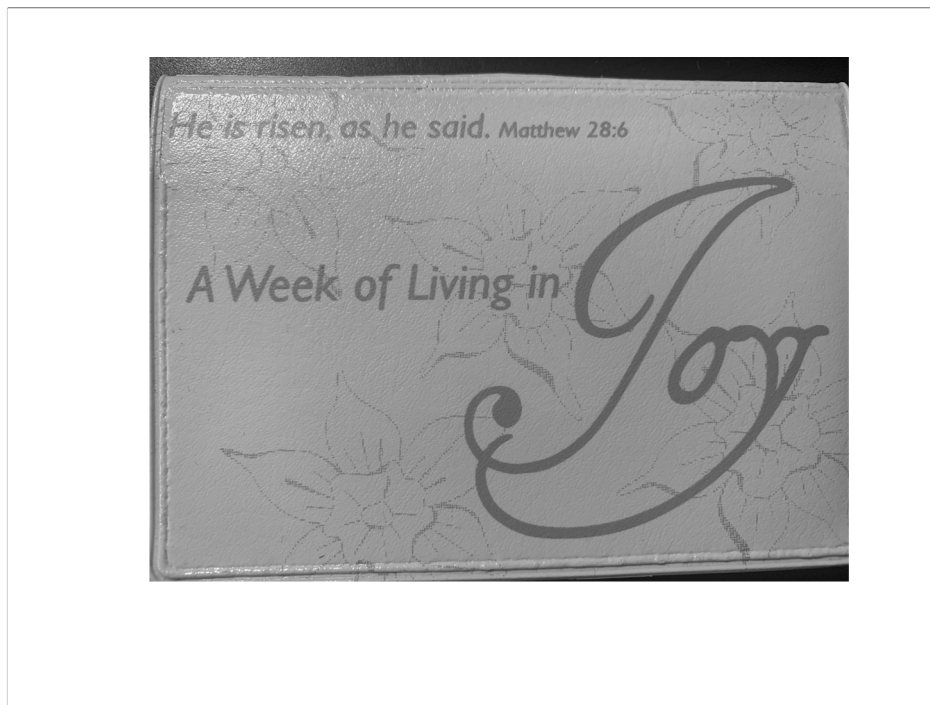
The third .. which is usually enough for Holy Spirit to grab my attention ... was this .. (turn to next slide)



The fourth ..



I thought .. I am on the right track .. But being human ... I still wondered from time to time as I prayed .. is this truly the direction our League should take? ... well .. reorganizing my office in anticipation of my bus-i-ness as provincial president and wanting to be sure exactly where everything is I found this ..



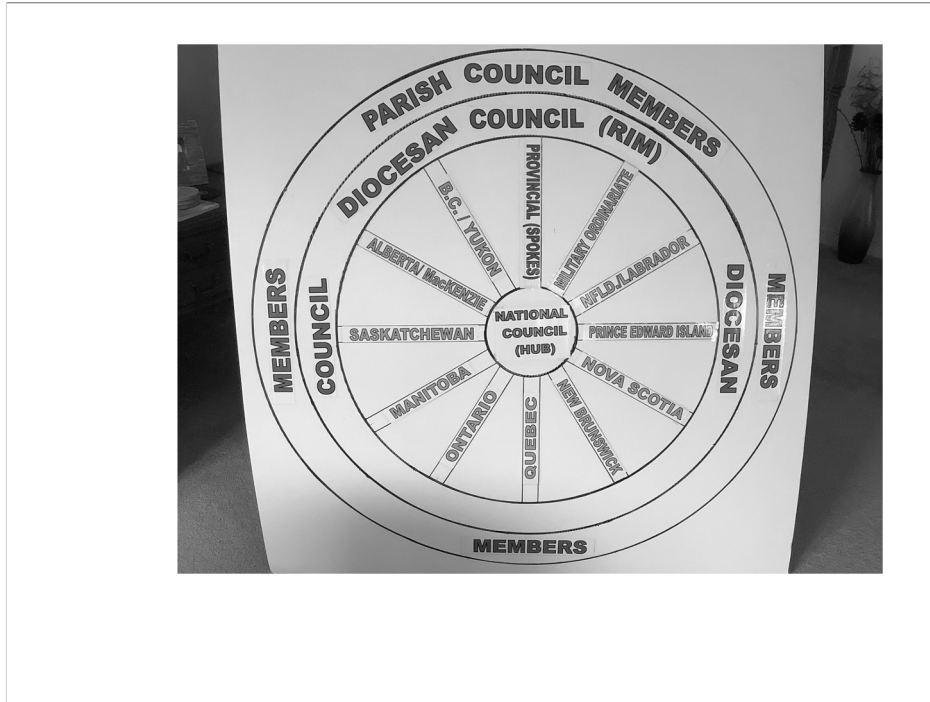
Yes, you guessed it ... another clue ... a little gift from a past convention, I am sure .. a week of living in Joy. Little cards with bible verses and reflections .. is _____ here? She was the first, first-time-attendee to register for this convention and I had two copies, so I want to share the second with her as a little gift .. By the way .. While she comes up, I hope all of you first-time attendees were bitten by the CWL sisterhood bug these last few days however ... if not, please report here immediately following my presentation for hugs and encouragement and maybe a quick bite .. 😊

PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT VISION 2024-2026

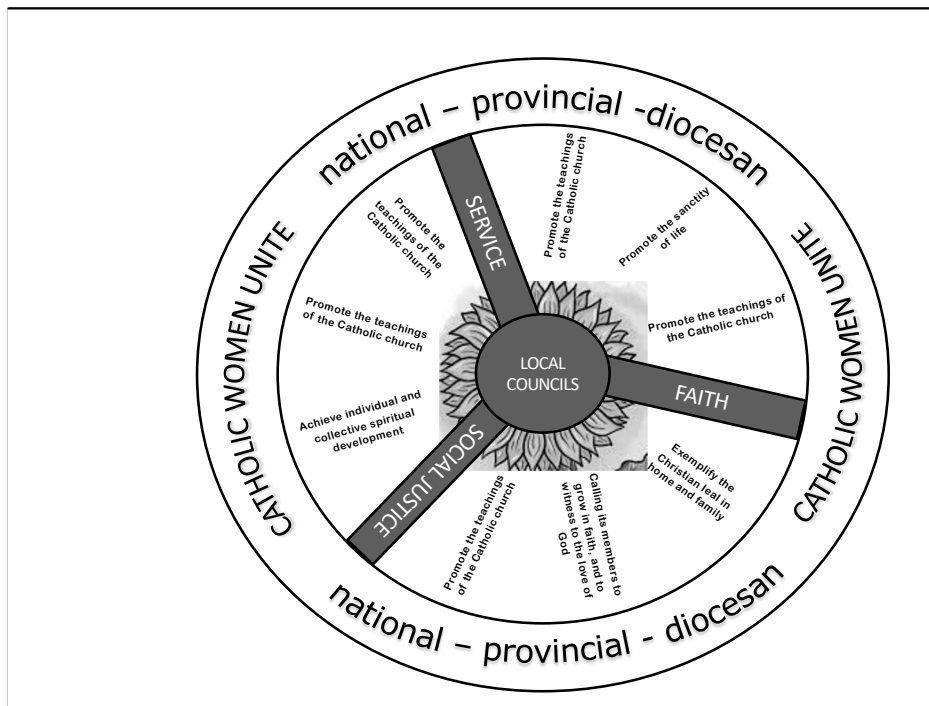
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
calls its members to grow in faith
and to witness to the love of God
through ministry and service.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4
REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!

so my efforts over the next two years will be focused on bringing as many women in Ontario to the mission of the league while always rejoicing in the Lord .. which is my bible verse Philippians 4:4 .. some diocesan presidents asked me to present my vision for the future of the League in Ontario .. I had to figure that out .. so first big shout out to our Divine Mercy prayer group who meet each morning and usually stay to explore so many different life topics in follow up conversation .. when expressing a wish to have a picture to represent my vision, I heard that many years ago, there was an image used to explain the structure of the League. Jeannie Coleman ran off screen and came back breathing a little more quickly saying ... I told Ivan not to throw this away as we would need it someday .. it was a large white plastic corrugated poster board with a wheel{turn slide} as seen here.

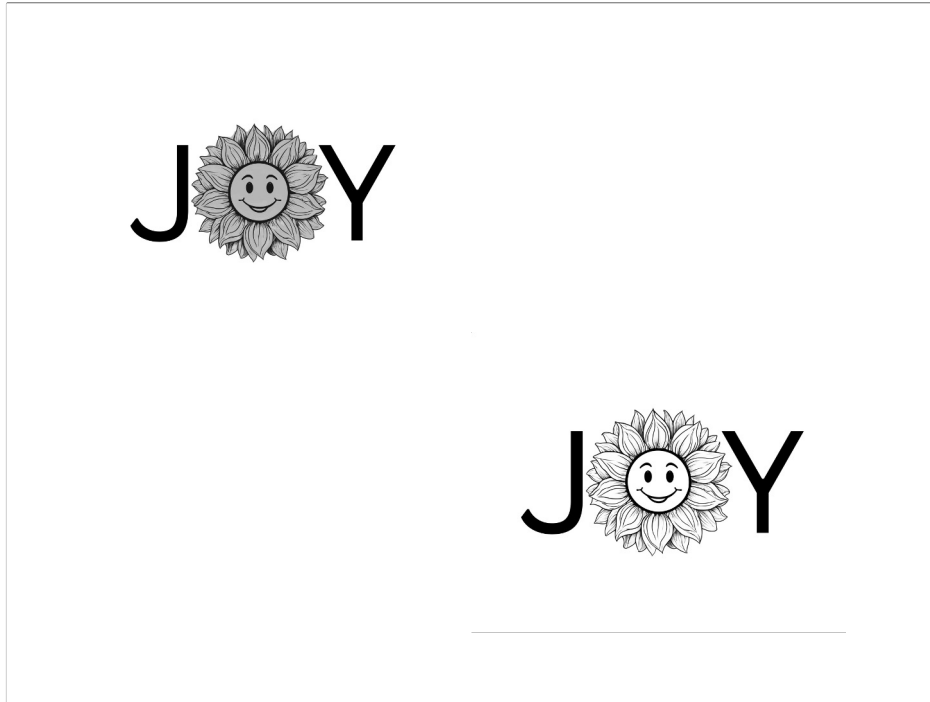


notice that National Council is depicted here at the centre and our councils around the outside. I am sure the explanation of this wheel was perfect at the time it was crafted, expressing members understanding of the various levels of the League at that time ... I am going to suggest we give that wheel a little twist with our recent strategic planning process and its results focusing on the needs of each individual council ... consider this ..



The national, provincial, and diocesan support the structure, keep us all together and provide strength through the spokes of the wheel (national, provincial, and diocesan resources); the pillars of faith, service and social justice are particularly sound. Our local, parish councils are the critical communities, the axel of our wheel that will move us forward for hundreds of years more. My vision is to think of our councils as the centre of our League: communities to nurture, to identify activities locally that resonate and create passion. As mentioned by Bishop Dowd in his rosary workshop a few months ago, at Bable everyone became the same in understanding ... all languages mixed, but {pause} at Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, no-one lost their identity, but rather heard the word each in their own language. This is what being in community means within the league, our council communities do not lose their identity being part of our diocesan communities, diocesan communities do not lose their identify in the provincial community, and provincial retains their identity in the national community and, as we know through Catholic teachings, we all have our individual place in world community, in God’s creation. Being Christian and in community means: We care about what we have in common.

- We care about each other.
- We share core values.
- We want to interact with each other regularly.
- We have passion for a common purpose.
- We care about the world as a whole.



Finally, you may have guessed by now, I chose the sunflower as the symbol I will use between the letters J and Y to spell JOY. The sunflower is considered by many a spiritual flower due to their similar appearance to the sun and the fact that they're always seeking, turning toward the light of the sun. We, as Christians, are called to mimic the sun through the joy and light we can bring to all God's creation; and, we are called to mimic the sunflower .. always turning to, moving ever closer to, the ultimate source of light in our world, Jesus Christ. If our joy brings others closer to us and we are closer to God ... you got it ... Amen! The power of the light!!

THE CHALLENGE

GO FORWARD JOYFULLY ...

GO FORTH TO SPREAD FAITH ..

GO FORTH TO SERVE OTHERS ..

GO FORTH TO STRIVE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

... ALL THE WHILE REJOICING IN OUR LORD!

This final slide shows my challenge to you, through my term and beyond, go joyfully forth to spread faith, serve others, and strive for social justice in our world.

Prayerfully decide on your direction at every level. Many of you have stepped forward to be part of prophetic prayer groups to pray for our councils asking for direction for the future of our League in Ontario. Let's start every discussion of the future with a few minutes of prophetic prayer, in silence asking the Holy Spirit to send us signs of where to go next. I look forward to sharing the journey of the next two years with all members in Ontario and throughout the country Please pray for me to be, with God's help, what the League needs in Ontario over the next two years and May Our Lady of Good Counsel watch over each of you and guide you ever closer to her son!