

Colleen's Message of Joy

Well ladies another turn of the moon around the earth and here we are in the month of love. I started thinking about love and what it means to have a life well-lived. In reading Pope Francis', **The Joy of the Gospel**, he expresses "great gratitude to all those who are committed to working in and for the Church."



He then goes on to describe the contribution of the Church in today's world as "enormous ... Christians are giving their lives in love. They help so many people to be healed or to die in peace... are present to those enslaved to addictions ... care for the elderly ... educate children and young people ... communicate values in hostile environments ... dedicated in so many ways to showing an immense love for humanity inspired by the God who became man ... joyfully sacrifice their lives and their time" and so much more. It reminds me of reading annual reports of your council activities. I believe through my faith that giving of oneself is necessary for a life well-lived. *Love one another as I have loved you* John 15:12.

Pope Francis cautions us to create spaces to be helped and healed ourselves, to renew our faith in the crucified and risen Jesus, to share profound questions and daily concerns, where deeper discernment about our experiences and life itself is undertaken in the light of the Gospel, to direct individual and social decisions towards the "good and beautiful." This time and space is a necessity if we are to have the strength to continue our good works. When you feel your joy diminishing, it's time for renewal!

The parish councils of The Catholic Women's League of Canada must be safe spaces for this renewal and discernment, for contemplation of the Gospel. Remember to include 1/3 faith in your council's plans.

This month, I invite you to attend the **Wellness Webinar** to be hosted by the Ontario Provincial Council standing chairs on February 12. Watch Facebook for the poster and registration link. It will be a time of renewal for you individually so that you may continue to live your faith joyfully, Colleen

