

The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Antigonish Diocesan Council

Here I am Lord, send me!

TO: Parish Council Faith Chair
FROM: Diocesan Faith Chair, Doreen Boudreau
DATE: January 2, 2025
SUBJECT: Happy New Year 2025
MEMO: #2 (2024-2026)
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Officers, Life Members, Provincial Secretary (for distribution to provincial counterpart)

Sisters in the League:

As we say Goodbye to 2024, it is good to reflect on our endeavors of the previous year and celebrate our accomplishments! I hope you were able to report these in your annual report. We, at the different levels of the League, are always happy to read Good News Stories!

As we usher in 2025, we start with a clean slate; but, oh what a great number of possible projects you might wish to undertake! Here are a few for your consideration:

“Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5)

Pope Francis has declared The Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 with the theme: ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. The Jubilee year opened on December 29, 2024, and closes December 28, 2025. A Jubilee Year happens every 25 years. Please visit <https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/jubilee-2025> for a list of ways to celebrate this special year with events which will be planned and posted as the year progresses. It would be wonderful to promote these events as council activities.

Dying with Christ – Living with Hope

This program presents a hope-filled perspective on a universal experience. Led by theologians and healthcare professionals, the series explores timeless insights into suffering, grief, dying, the duty to care, and how dying with Christ is attainable for everyone.

The Christian Medical and Dental Association of Canada (CMDA Canada) is offering two opportunities to participate in *Dying with Christ – Living with Hope* through live online sessions. In addition to experiencing this transformative course, you’ll be equipped to bring the program to your own community settings, such as churches, community centers, or online platforms.

Winter Series Session Options:

- January 15, 22, & 29 at 7 PM ET

- February 20, 27, & March 6 at 12 PM ET

Members can participate in the *Dying with Christ – Living with Hope* Winter Series by registering at cmdacanada.org/event/dying-with-christ-living-with-hope-winter-series.

In her communiqué #12 dated November 30, 2024, our National Chairperson of Faith, Rolande Chernichan, enumerates a number of dates you might want to remember and activities you might wish to participate in or promote to your council members, such as: Great Symphony of Prayer webinar series, Pilgrimage to Rome 2025: Jubilee of Hope, World Day of Prayer (March 7, 2025), Lenten Webinar: “Hope in the Midst of Turmoil” (April 6, 2025), and Spiritual Advisors’ webinar. Please visit <https://www.cwl.ca/communiques> for her full communiqué.

In her memo dated November 30, 2024, Rolande Chernichan also speaks of a Novena for Members and states: “The League’s Mission Statement ‘calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service’. The national executive/board is happy to deliver on members’ request for a ‘Novena for Members’. The start of a New Year and Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope are added incentives for members to pray in hope for the envisioned future of the League.” What a beautiful idea. I have attached the novena prayers to this memo. Members can pray this novena individually or as a council at successive meetings of members.

I encourage you to check out our national website for a full calendar of faith events which can be found at: [#186](https://www.cwl.ca/training-reference-guide-faith). There is a wealth of information available. Please take advantage of them as you assume your role as Faith Chair in your parish council. I know that some councils are small, and I don’t expect you to undertake everything that is available. Choose what you believe is achievable for your group as you go forward to serve the Lord.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel strengthen your faith as you move forward in your response to “Here I am Lord, send me!”

Your sister in the League,

Doreen Boudreau, Diocesan Faith Chair

Attached: Novena for Members