

The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Antigonish Diocesan Council

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*Here I am Lord, send me!*

TO: Parish Council Presidents  
FROM: Diocesan President, Anne McCormick  
DATE: January 2, 2025  
SUBJECT: A New Year of Hope  
MEMO: # 2 (2024-2026)  
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Officers, Life Members, Provincial Secretary (for distribution to provincial counterpart)

Sisters in the League:

Happy New Year! A new year brings new beginnings and offers renewed hope; a time to start afresh. Many of us begin the new year with a vision of hope for what we want to change, accomplish or experience in the new year ahead. Pope Francis tells us “Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring.” Hope is what keeps us going when we encounter times of hardship, illness, suffering, loss, worry, or when our situation seems hopeless. Hope is one of the most powerful forces known to man.

Christian hope is grounded in the certainty that nothing can separate us from the love of God; it is synonymous with trust in God. We need look no further than Mary as a model of hope as she lived her life with hope, trust and confidence carrying out God's will. Mary never lost faith in God; she never lost hope that God would give her the strength to be faithful to His will.

In this Jubilee Year with its motto, “Pilgrims of Hope”, Pope Francis calls on Catholics to strengthen their sense of hope, and to be tangible signs of hope and credible witnesses of God's love to those who experience hardships of any kind, for example, the sick, elderly, lonely and imprisoned; migrants and young people; the hungry, homeless, poor, vulnerable and marginalized; those facing injustices of war, persecution, loss of rights and dignity.

Bringing hope and being witnesses of God's love to others is how we live our faith in action through the core values of faith, service and social justice and the mission of the Catholic Women's League.

As we begin this new year, let us plan and move forward in a spirit of hope. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, let us inspire and support one another, build each other up, learn from one another, use our gifts and talents to strengthen the League, and let us bring God's message of hope and love to all.

Your sister in the League,  
Anne McCormick, Antigonish Diocesan President