

Catholic Women's League – Montreal Archdiocesan Council – 2005-2006

Spiritual Advisor's Remarks – 051101

Dear Sisters, Members and Guests of this Archdiocesan Council. I have not been able to follow through on adding my homily notes and completing the notes I took at this summer's Annual CWL National Convention in Vancouver. I have been that busy with duties in the parish, along with other things I do, such as initiatives with our West Island Deanery, the West Island Pastoral Council, the North Shore Ministerial Association, the special Advent Mission at Becket with opening to outreach for the poor orphans of Malawi, the blessing of 20 Mysteries of the Rosary paintings hanging in the church at Becket for the past 3 years, a formation day for the Alpha Quebec Regional Office held in the West Island, and on goes the list.

“Companions on the Journey” remains a well from which we can draw deeply, because we belong to a living organism called the Body of Christ, which includes not only all the baptized here on Earth, but also all the saints, whom we honor today, and whose intercession we need and seek.

I call on all the saints to help all the members of the League renew our outlook and outreach, so that we can be able to find new ways to connect with Catholic women and indeed all women today. I can't explain why, and think it is the grace of office I received upon accepting the call to advise you, but since that time there is a fire burning within me. It is a fire of love for all the members of the CWL, for all Catholic women and Christian women, and for all women. It is the fire of God's love that wants to spend itself, give itself away, and pour itself out into every soul for its renewal and eternal salvation.

It is not clear to me how this grace will play itself out, or how the Lord and our Lady will lead us into the unknown future, but I can tell you that we have nothing to fear and every reason to hope. We are truly just at the beginning of a new millennium of evangelization, which makes us all pioneers, and we know how difficult it can be for pioneers, who come up against incredible obstacles to overcome and challenges to meet. Let us not forget that the initiative comes from our heavenly Father who loves all his human children, from Jesus his Son who ever comes to us in mysterious and life-giving ways, and from the Holy Spirit who is the chief agent of evangelization.

For my part, as Archdiocesan and also Parish Spiritual Advisor, I have begun to take steps to help League members promote the League and its works. I must still find opportunity and ways to dialogue and pray with other Pastors and Spiritual Advisors of Parish CWL Councils. Perhaps a good way to start would be to meet with Msgr. Frank Coyle, Provincial Spiritual Advisor. As for this Council, I am at a loss how to proceed in collaborating with you in the development of your spiritual life and of membership. Perhaps this Spiritual Advisor needs all of you to advise him. I look forward to your initiatives, ideas, email thoughts, and invitations to chat over luncheon. I enclose a copy of what we have been putting in our parish bulletin for close to a month now. Please pray for me.