



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council**



**Christian Family Life Chair  
Communiqué # 2  
January 6, 2019**

TO: Diocesan Christian Family Life Chairpersons, Diocesan Presidents  
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)  
CC: National Chairperson of Christian Family Life (for information)  
FROM: Celine Berlinguette, Provincial Chairperson of Christian Family Life

'Веселого Різдва' Veseloho Rizdva - Happy/Merry Christmas  
to my Sisters who follow the Julian calendar!

As I sit back and reflect on the last five weeks, I wonder: "Was there anything that I missed out on, in my preparation for Christmas?"

Yes, I did put up a Christmas tree and I did put out my Nativity Scene and I even did some Christmas baking. But what did I do to spiritually prepare for Christmas?

- Did I do anything special during Advent in preparation for the coming of Christ our Savior?
- Did I attend Bible study groups or study the Advent and Christmas readings?
- Did I attend a reconciliation service?
- Did I spend more time in prayer?
- Did I do anything to help the less fortunate; did I donate to the food bank, donate warm clothing to the homeless or help in a soup kitchen?
- Did I explain to my children that 'Jesus is the Reason for the Season' and that Christmas is about the celebration of the birth of Jesus?

On the Sunday between Christmas and New Years, we celebrated the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Have we modeled our family life in accordance to the Holy Family's?

January 1st is a day of celebration for many as we start a new calendar year, however the greater celebration is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, celebrates Mary's faith and trust in God alone. All Christians need to imitate her faith.

Last Sunday we celebrated the Epiphany of the Lord, the day when Christ revealed himself not only to the Magi but also to the rest of the world. God used a "star" to guide the Magi to the Christ Child, because they were familiar and understood the stars. God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. What "star" is God using to call each and every one of us?

During this blessed and glorious season, I wonder:

- How can anyone abort an innocent child? Our Blessed Mother even though faced with many trials and tribulations trusted in God and did according to His will. Do we have that same that same trust?
- Why is it so easy for some to take their own lives? Jesus died on the cross for our sins, to free us from the bond of sin so we could gain eternal life with him.
- Why is it that so many people have fallen away from the Church and its teachings? As parents and grandparents are we teaching our children/grandchildren about Jesus, teaching them to pray and taking them to Church?
- Why is it that in our western world there are so few men and women studying for the priesthood or for religious life? What are we doing to encourage our young people to life in vocations? Do our children know their local pastors? Have they ever attended an ordination? Do you talk to your children about vocations?
- Why do so many marriages end up in separations and divorces? Have we forgotten to include God in our relationships? Do we pray together or turn to God when making decisions?

As we continue in our faith journeys, let us not forget about the issues that way heavy in our hearts. Pray, Pray, Pray – Prayer is a powerful tool!

Stay abreast on the issues that threaten our beliefs. Following are a few websites that you can visit to keep updated on various issues and topics.

Alberta March for Life – May 14th, 2020, the theme: “Human Rights for all Human Life” - We are hoping to have all our CWL Banners in the March <https://albertamarchforlife.com/>  
Alies – <http://www.alies.ca/>

The Back Porch – <http://www.thebackporch.info/>

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition – <https://www.epcc.ca/>

Publications that may be of interest to you:

Catholic Women’s League - <https://cwl.ca/>

Vatican News - <https://www.vaticannews.va/>

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops - <https://www.cccb.ca/>

The INTERIM Magazine - <https://www.theinterim.com/>

*“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”*  
Hebrews 10:23

Your sister in Christ,

*Celine*