



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Catholic Conference 2010 Report

The Prayer of St. Francis & Radical Freedom / Bishop F. Henry

Bishop Henry focused on The Prayer of St. Francis which he explained was what epitomized who St. Francis was as a human & a religious. He emphasized that we need to change our way of thinking about what other people think of us and to look at our relationship with Christ through the eyes of St. Francis. Francis literally "FELL IN LOVE" with Jesus; poor & crucified. Jesus expects us to follow his example... that of humble ultimate loving and to surrender ourselves to God's will. We need to over-come our egos. Jesus represents THE ULTIMATE FREEDOM ... that is, the ability to stand up, contradict, to do God's will no matter what others think. We are called to do the same. Jesus was completely fearless because He trusted his Father completely. And Francis trusted Jesus completely. For humility is truth. We are called to see the truth about ourselves and about the world around us. We have to look beyond our projected images of self and this is done through prayer and asceticism and humble service to others. SPIRITUALITIES WITHOUT THE CHURCH IS JUST ANOTHER EGO TRIP. A focus on ME and not on the we. Freedom is not possible in isolation and we offer freedom to others by forgiving them. We must be willing to present the gospels in new circumstances for God's grace will help us do God's work in child-like trust that God can create a motivational change in us.

-report submitted by Pam DeL.