



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



**Communications Chair**

**Communiqué 5**

**DATE: May 13, 2020**

TO: Diocesan Chairpersons of Communications  
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)  
CC: National Chairperson of Communications (for information)  
FROM: Janet MacPhee, Provincial Chairperson of Communications

**Fake News** – the 2019 message for World Communications Day was about Fake News. Pope Francis stated that the roots of fake news can be found in original sin. Remember Satan, as the snake convinced Adam and Eve to eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Satan was able to twist the truth well enough to place doubts in the minds of Adam and Eve. As Pope Francis explained, fake news is successful in that it so often mimics the truth, mixing the two to sow confusion, fear and hatred.

With the Covid-19 pandemic gripping our whole world where do we find the truth. When you google "Covid-19 Pandemic", over 650 million articles are referenced in less than one second! Wow!! Talk about confusion, fear, anxiety, panic. It is basically the leading news story on the majority of news shows, articles and articles in the local papers, whole magazines devoted to it, Where to start? It is highly recommended to reference credible sources and websites. In Alberta it is the AHS site <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/>

or

the World Health Organization

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

and to know where to get financial aid:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

It is not easy to battle fake news. Pope Francis offered his own PRAYER OF HOPE (inspired by the prayer of St. Francis):

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Help us to recognize the evil latent in a communication that does not build communion.

Help us to remove the venom from our judgments.

Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters.

You are faithful and trustworthy;

may our words be seeds of goodness for the world:

where there is shouting, let us practise listening;

where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;

where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;

where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;

where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;

where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions;

where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;

where there is hostility, let us bring respect;

where there is falsehood, let us bring truth.

Amen.

**54<sup>th</sup> World Communications Day** – will be celebrated May 24 at the Vatican and in most dioceses throughout the world. The papal message was released at the Vatican January 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, who is the patron saint of journalists.

**Theme:**            **“That you may tell your children and grandchildren” (Ex 10:2)**  
**Life becomes history**

**Opening Paragraph:**

*“I would like to devote this year’s Message to the theme of storytelling, because I believe that, so as not to lose our bearings, we need to make our own the truth contained in good stories. Stories that build up, not tear down; stories that help us rediscover our roots and the strength needed to move forward together. Amid the cacophony of voices and messages that surround us, we need a human story that can speak of ourselves and of the beauty all around us. A narrative that can regard our world and its happenings with a tender gaze. A narrative that can tell us that we are part of a living and interconnected tapestry. A narrative that can reveal the interweaving of the threads which connect us to one another.” Pope Francis*

**Closing Prayer**

O Mary, woman and mother, you wove the divine Word in your womb, you recounted by your life the magnificent works of God. Listen to our stories, hold them in your heart and make your own the stories that no one wants to hear. Teach us to recognize the good thread that runs through history. Look at the tangled knots in our life that paralyze our memory. By your gentle hands, every knot can be untied. Woman of the Spirit, mother of trust, inspire us too. Help us build stories of peace, stories that point to the future. And show us the way to live them together.

For the full narrative please go to:

[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/papa-francesco\\_20200124\\_messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/papa-francesco_20200124_messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html)

or

<http://www.cwl.ab.ca/index.php/committees/8-communications>

Over the past couple of months, we have found different ways to communicate other than meeting physically (face to face). With our ability not to worship physically together, we are ever grateful for the live streaming of masses, televised masses (which has been around for many years), the ability to “meet” via the different “meeting” apps that has sprung up over the past few months, using apps on our mobile phones to “see” our families, using email to immediately correspond with colleagues and family, using “text” for a quick message to others. Going forward we need to continue to use what we can to communicate with each other. Staying in “touch” will always be of great importance and we need to carry on communicating even when we can physically meet again.

Stay Healthy

Janet M.