



Notre Dame de Lorette

Catholic Women's League

January 2021



The title “Mother of God” goes back to the third or fourth century, but the Greek term *Theotokos* (“The God-bearer”) was officially consecrated as Catholic doctrine at the Council of Ephesus in 431, thus becoming the first Marian dogma. At the end of the Council of Ephesus, crowds of people marched through the streets shouting: “Praised be the Theotokos!”

This Catholic doctrine is based on the doctrine of Incarnation, as expressed by St. Paul: “God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law” (Galatians 4:4). In its chapter on Mary’s role in the Church, Vatican II’s Dogmatic Constitution “*Lumen Gentium*” (“Light of the People”) calls Mary “Mother of God” 12 times.

On this day the Catholic Church also celebrates the World Day of Peace, a tradition established by Pope Paul VI and confirmed by Pope John Paul II.

Our Spiritual Advisor
Fr. Jorge Mario de los Rios Londoño

Our Members
Lacey Bernardin, *President*
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Susan Bernier
Irene Bialek
Valerie Bonnefoy
Jacqueline Bouchard, *Vice Pres, Chair*
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Marie-Ange Prevost
Mae Ross, *Chair*
Iris Swiderski
Cecilia Tssessaze
Joanne Touchette
Marilyn Toutant

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (mass to our intent)	2
3 Feast of the Epiphany	4	5	6 	7	8	9
10 Baptism of the Lord	11  Valerie Bonnefoy	12	13  Fr. Jorge Mario 	14 General Mtg 7:00 pm via TEAMS	15	16
17	18	19	20 	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 	28	29  Irene Bialek Mary Ann Novak 	30 Carol & John Mravinec
31	<p>The Marian and Josephite devotions are the most rapid way to obtain Christian perfection. They are the fastest way to obtain fully and completely all the Sacramental graces when we participate in any one of the Sacraments. —</p> <p><i>Fr. Clement Machado --from St. Joseph: The Church's Best Kept Secret</i></p>					



Lacey's Address

Happy New Year! Ladies and Father,

Welcome to an all new year. This past year has been a very different time in our lives. There have been some very low lows as well as some highs. It has been very trying for many of us, but it has given us all a new perspective on appreciating what we have and to appreciate those around us. Let's all put our hearts and minds to the new year and make the best of what may come.

I'd like to state that we are all continuing to pray for our members who are in need, and most especially Sue and her family as well as Marcia's mother and family. I ask that you continue to add them in your prayers.

Thank you everyone who attended our Advent gathering in December.

2021 Pope's Intentions

JANUARY 2021 — Human fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

thesimplecatholic



For more cookbooks

contact Suzanne Moore

- 204-878-3137
- smooregaap@gmail.com

\$10 each payable by

- Cheque to CWL
- Cash
- eTransfer to above email

I know it was different and not what we are used to but I found the program to be very well done. Thank you Mae and Jolene for all your help in this matter. As this method of meeting seemed to work for the most part, (a few kinks need to be worked out,) we will continue with this method of meeting for as long as needed. The meetings will continue at our regular days and time of second Wednesday of the month at 7pm. As soon as it's deemed safe and permissible to return to in-person meetings, we will do so. We will send out monthly emails as to joining the online meeting or if we will be meeting in person.

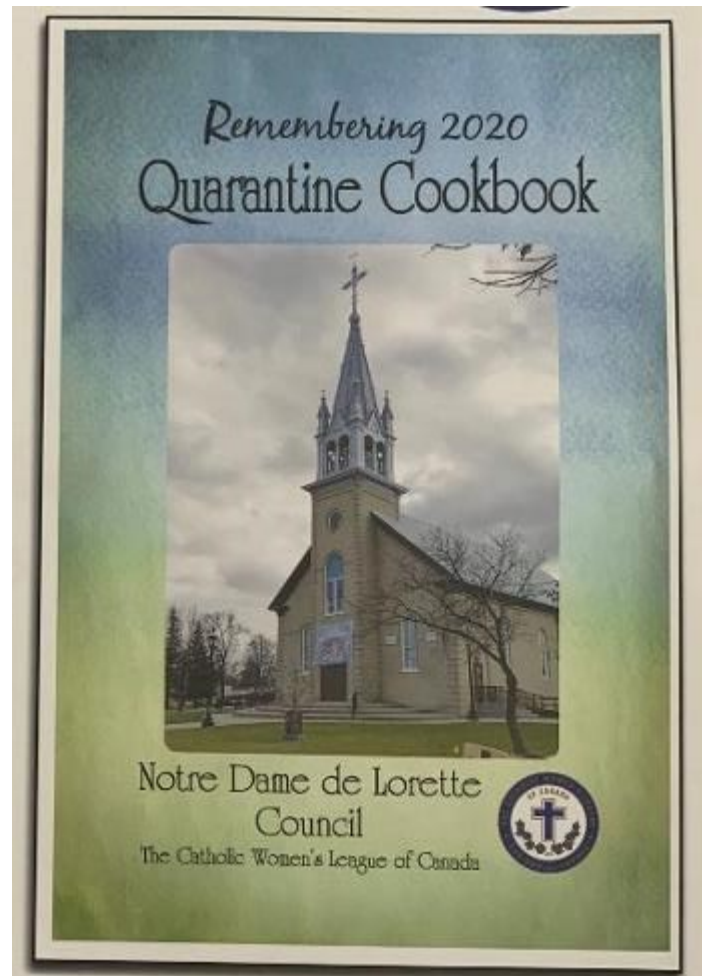
Congratulations to everyone who bought or sold our cookbooks! We sold out of our first batch and had to buy another batch of books. We will continue to sell them until we sell out again. There will be further updates in regards to our finances in regards to the fundraiser at our next meeting.

As a reminder from our last meeting, we will be reviewing our P & P at our general meeting in either February or March. Please send in any corrections or amendments you would like us to review during that time. We will be adding some guidelines in regards to meeting online.

Hope to see all of you on January 13th, 2021.

I wish you all a Happy New Year!

Lacey Bernardin



Lambert Family

Winter Clothing Drive

Deadline: January 3, 2021

What We Need

Jackets-adults & children

Toques

Mittens & Gloves-all ages

Boots-all sizes

Warm socks

Long johns

Blankets & Sleeping bags

Tooth brushes & paste

Shampoo

Soaps

Deodorant/Antiperspirant

**Donations will be distributed free of charge to the homeless
and those in need served by Union Gospel Mission**

Drop-off:

**261 Carson Park Drive
Lorette, MB**

Pick-up:

**Nettie Lambert
204-371-6824**

It's great; very nicely done! I really liked the intro. This is my only COVID souvenir —Lisa W. (customer)

Thank you for the cookbook. I love it! —Sharon St. G.(customer)

The price was right, and that certainly did not hurt sales. The comments throughout the book added interest. — Carol Mravinec

We got our cookbooks and I am giving one to each of our daughters for Christmas. They are so great! Thanks so much! — Dawn Christenson (sister to Colleen Holloway)

Well done! The variety of recipes is a beautiful cross section and tribute to the members of our council. Truly a gift of the heart. — Susan Bernier

Ben and I have already been going through the cookbook and enjoying the ethnic variety. —Jennifer Poitra

This was such a fun and different fundraiser for us. I love being able to share special recipes from my family and getting to try other people's recipes. I've already tried a few and they were great! I think the books themselves came out beautifully and feature our church very nicely. Great idea for Christmas gifts.—Lacey Bernardin

I greatly appreciate our CWL Cookbook with the pictures of the inside and outside of our beautiful church and the time taken by our members to send in their favourite recipes... I'm looking forward to trying them all!!! — Mae Ross

Such a great opportunity to raise funds for the CWL council while sharing so many phenomenal family-kept secret recipes!!! —Cat Ross

What a year 2020 was. I bought 4 cookbooks to give to my kids and one for myself. I must admit I have not made any recipes yet but I have looked at it and have selected quite a few. It is fun looking through it and finding treasured recipes from friends. The layout is great and colourful and I especially love the front and back covers. Good job ladies! —Lise Lavack

A bright light in a dark time. A family keepsake I will treasure.— Stephanie Ross

Thank you for the great cookbook. I bought 10 copies to use as stocking stuffers for my grandchildren. - Denise H (customer)

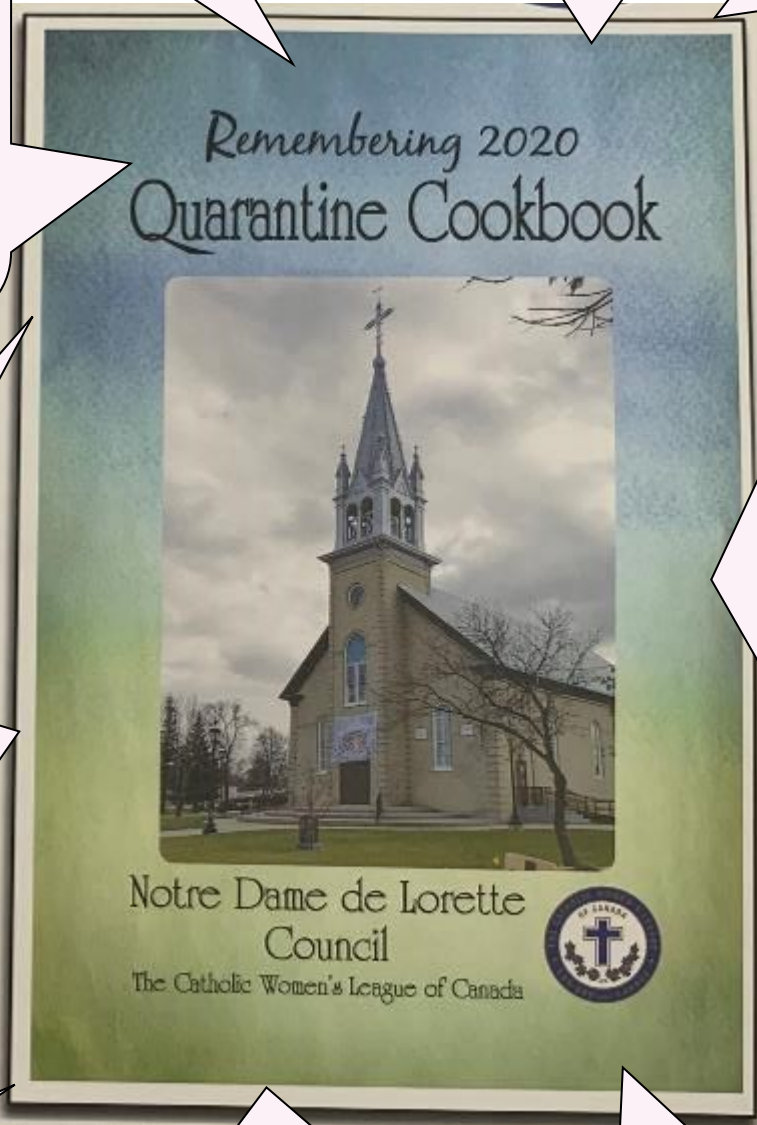
I thought it was a wonderful idea! I like the lime green and blue colours— lovely! - Jaquelyne Cournoyer

I gifted the cookbooks (except for a copy kept for me), and I personalized each of them with a message on the inside cover, something to the effect that "*Feasting is important in scripture and in CWL events. May you both enjoy trying out some of our recipes*". I delighted in the surprise of my three daughters who are CWL members, to see their names in the book with recipes attributed to each of them. LOL My daughters-in-law and sons were equally pleased to receive the books. They are all happy that some of our favourite family recipes are now in a book instead of being on loose papers or on small cards. They are especially pleased to see heritage recipes (originally from their grandmothers) also included in our CWL cookbook. I am looking forward to trying out many of the recipes. I still have a couple of books I will be delivering in person once COVID restrictions are lifted. —Rolande Chernichan

What a lovely book and nicely set up! I borrowed one from Lise (Lavack) and decided to buy one. —Marcel Jeanson

Notre Dame de Lorette CWL has knocked it out of the park again! What a great idea to capture the recipes that have kept us busy in our kitchens passing time during quarantine. The best recipes that are tried and true always come from country kitchens. I loved it so much I "came back for seconds" and gifted copies to my daughters, niece and sister-in-law. Thank you to the lovely ladies of Lorette for such a great idea! This will just be one more memento of my Sisters in the League from Lorette! — Colleen Holloway

What a lot of fun making and selling our cookbooks! I especially enjoyed seeing the recipes from former members. —Suzanne Moore



I've So much to be THANKFUL For

MJ shared "My prayer of thanksgiving:

Dear Lord,
Thank you for bringing Mom home with you this year;
Thank you for preserving Jeremy from all harm and injury from his fall;
Thank you for the health of all my 23 grandchildren;
Thank you for the health and employment of all my children;
Thank you for my spouse and his health;
Thank you for the love and charity shared between my children;
Thank you for our house, community and our parish;
Thank you for our extended family, siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews;
Thank you for friends and a praying community;
Thank you for our country and all those whom you have called to govern it;
Finally, thank you Lord for reaching out to me daily and never giving up on me.
These are my points of gratitude for 2020.
Thank you for giving me the chance to ponder and put to paper what a wonderful Lord we serve!!"

Carol shared that she and a friend "were counting our blessings: our warm home, plenty of food, family, etc." "As I finish my walk each day, I find so many things to be thankful for: clean air, a safe country, my mobility, and so on. I pray that more people realize how blessed we are, but also realizing how many people are suffering in so many ways during this pandemic. I pray that God will have mercy on them."

Jacquelyne C. shares that she is happy that her cousin, Leanne, moved back home from Australia. She is also so grateful that her Dad got married!

Irene shares,

"I am grateful for the company of my granddaughter Ashley...she is a source of inspiration, working through a difficult health issue amid the pandemic.

I am grateful for the technology that we have, so I am able to see the faces of my children and grandchildren on Skype or Zoom!

I am grateful for the many people who are answering prayers, by reaching out to those who are struggling with isolation, depression, and financial distress.

I am grateful for CWL!! For the prayers, call to prayer, moments to meditate on the Novenas."

Lacey shares,

"I'm grateful that this past year has forced me to slow down and reconsider what is truly important to me. I have been working from home for much of the year and have been able to spend a lot more time with my girls. Granted, many things have been more difficult, especially the recent passing of my dog, but I'm happy that I've had this time to spend time with my family without the distractions of shopping, extracurricular activities and much of the stress from work. So thank you for this time of reflection! P.S. I'm also grateful that Megan passed her Knowledge Test and is now learning to drive!"

Lucille shares,

"There are so many things to be grateful for that it is difficult to choose one or two to share! Besides the usual ones such as family, friends, my health, my home, the beautiful weather we have been blessed with, the gift of mobility & my cognitive ability, I have two very specific COVID related things I am grateful for:

1) the slower pace of life COVID has imposed on me. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at home. It has given me time to reassess my priorities and come to the realization that I had overextended myself and that I need to give up some of my commitments post COVID.

2) I am so grateful for Skype, Zoom, Gather and all other platforms that have allowed me to maintain connections with family & friends over the past 9 months."

Madelyn shares,

"I am truly grateful for my family, and good health amongst us! The safe birth of Chloe was a highlight, and although I only held her for 10 minutes, and that was so long ago.... I am so grateful for photos and video chats to see her, and other family and friends!


So grateful to all the essential workers who save lives daily! I am also very grateful that through all the despair and tragedy of COVID, we still have love, faith and hope!"

I've So much to be THANKFUL For

Catherine shares,

Well, something I'm extremely thankful to Jesus for this year is that we (husband & I) finally had our immigration interview date at the beginning of December in Montreal!

After two years of marriage and living apart we are now just waiting for my visa to be mailed back and after that I'll be able to move to the USA and live with my hubby ;) like marriage was intended to be like!

Thanks be to God 

Agatha shares,

Despite health challenges that I faced for almost a year, God visited me with loads of blessings. I was able to travel to Nigeria for my daughter's wedding and everything was perfect to His great glory. For this and for preserving me and my family throughout the year I say thank you Lord.

Kathleen shares,

While I have so much to be grateful for, it can be heavy on my heart knowing that so many others face challenges and struggles each and every day. So, I am especially grateful each day for the kindness and love I see others give to those around them and those especially in need. In these COVID times and in our new world of social media, it is great these efforts and requests for assistance can be shared virtually. ~ I am also so grateful for joining CWL and getting to know all the wonderful ladies better. God is good - all the time!!

Mae says,

"I am beyond thankful that my brother-in-law and his two sons went through the RCIA program this year, chose to be Baptized and are growing in the Catholic faith! Also, my brother has returned to his Catholic faith, praying and growing daily!!! I am filled with joy!!! Thanks be to God!

My husband and I prayed (together) the Advent Wreath Liturgy that Sharon Malec (Alberta) shared with our CWL members before every evening meal. My husband lit the candle(s). Made our Advent and Christmas memorable and meaningful!!! Thanks be to God!

I am so thankful for the faith that God has gifted me with, for the lessons He has taught me, for loving me unconditionally, for my closely knit family, for having all our basic needs met, and for this beautiful, peaceful country we live in!

Suzanne M. says,

I thank the Lord for the many blessings of my life. I am grateful for being able to survive another pandemic—I was not expected to survive the 1957 Asian flu. I thank him for Cam's recovery from COVID as well.

Every day I thank God for running water, electricity, central heat, a warm bed, food in my tummy, no debts, our mobility and the opportunity to be of service to the people of God.

Naturally, I most thankful for my faithful and loving husband and for our children, their spouses and our eleven grandchildren. To top it all off, we are delighted to share the news that we are to be grandparents to Adam and Gillian's 6th child in July, 2021.

Marcia says, I have a couple things I'd like to share under the title gratitude:

The *first one* is confusion can be a gift from God. Looking back on instances when I felt desperately in need of an immediate solution, I can see that often I wasn't ready to act. When I became fully ready the information, I needed was there for the taking. I think that dealing with confusion can be like cooking. If the bread isn't done, I don't take it out of the oven and insist that it's time to eat. I let it finish baking. **If a clear solution to a problem hasn't shown itself, I can trust that it will appear when the time is right.**

The *second one* is that sometimes the things we consider our greatest weaknesses prove to be our greatest strengths. They provide us with opportunities for growth that we would never have had otherwise. For example, courage, but it was through my shyness that I learned the courage was already available to me. **Let's remember anything and everything about us can be used for our good there is always something to learn.**

I thank God every day for whatever I experience that day no matter if I feel troubled or confused. I know that every experience can offer me a gift. **All I have to do is to be willing to look at my situation in the light of gratitude.**

I've So much to be **THANKFUL** *For*

Rolande shares, "In no particular order, I am thankful:
For Mae's initiatives of novenas and other spiritual sharing by CWL members throughout the year.
For Suzanne's diligence and dedication to organize our council's history and to faithfully produce a newsletter each month that keeps our membership informed.
For President Lacey and her executive who have led our council with initiatives that sustained interest and connectedness in the League despite our inability to meet.
For being able to celebrate the Eucharist virtually, especially during Holy Week, Easter and Christmas and having had options as to which Mass to participate in

each Sunday.

For being able to participate in adoration, group prayer, webinars, etc. online; even CWL meetings!

For having managed to stay safe and to learn to meet with our children and grandchildren using Zoom or by individual outreach using FaceTime or WhatsApp.

For having been able to share with the less fortunate by donating online and participating in food drive and clothing initiatives.

For being forced to learn to shop online so as to have gifts to wrap for Christmas.

For the blessing of our daughter who volunteered to do our weekly grocery shopping so that we did not put ourselves at risk.

For the blessing of being retired which prepared us for a more isolated lifestyle.

For the blessing of a year of beautiful weather where we did a lot of outdoor living in our large yard.

For the joy of camping with our children and grandchildren, yet achieving social distancing.

For the blessing of prayers for healing for our granddaughter, Maya, who completed her course of chemotherapy and surgeries in her battle against acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

For the blessing that Mom who is 95 years old, is being very well taken care of in the Personal Care home in Fisher Branch, and that we've been able to visit with her using FaceTime, and visits through a window.

For the blessing that our children and their spouses remained employed because their work is deemed an essential service, and that they were vigilant to not bring home the virus.

For the blessing that our siblings and spouses remain healthy; and thankful that Suzanne and Cameron survived their bout of COVID.

That we live in Canada where medical treatment is available to everyone at no personal cost.

For the dedication of all healthcare workers, especially those who minister to the suffering and dying.

That COVID testing was quickly developed and that a vaccine has already been developed and is in use.

That the COVID-19 pandemic has given us pause and cause to reflect on relationships that have touched our lives, and it has provided occasions to meditate on our personal relationships with God.

For the spiritual guidance of the Life and Prayer Workshops that were begun twice and had to be suspended twice because of the pandemic.

For the blessing of the team in our parish who assisted Fr. Mario so that daily and weekly Masses could be celebrated while observing the COVID restrictions.

For the blessing of creation in its wonder and splendour, and for the changing of the seasons.

For the blessing of being able to listen to homilies of our bishop and other bishops and priests online.

For the blessing and bond of CWL sisterhood.

For the blessing of fresh air and clear blue skies, free of pollution.

For the blessing of living in Canada with its freshwater lakes and rivers and natural resources.

For the initiatives to remain connected that were borne out of having to observe the COVID restrictions.

For the blanket of a fresh snowfall, the intricacy and uniqueness of each snowflake, and for the sun that transforms them into shimmering diamonds.

For the comfort of a warm home, adequate food, a comfortable bed, good health, and a loving husband and family.

For the security and safety we enjoy because of the armed services and protective policing in our country.

For the gifts of faith, hope and love that have touched our lives during this past year.

NATIONAL GRATITUDE MONTH

*Gratitude turns
what we have into
enough, and more."*

— Melody Beattie





December, 2020

Christmas Greetings to All of my Dear Sisters in the League,

As we begin the season of Advent, in the midst of a global pandemic, our hearts are filled with uncertainty and fear. Not unlike, I would imagine, Mary and Joseph, she heavy with child, and setting out for Bethlehem in the midst of troubled political times to be registered in census, along with many of their countrymen. Then having to give birth in a stable – what a disappointing beginning for a King!

So we, too, have heavy hearts and many questions. Will my family be safe? Will our loved ones in long term care be safe from this dreaded virus? What about our front line and essential workers? Will there be jobs available to go back to? When will a vaccine be available? Will it be safe and effective? Will our world go back to what it was before, or will it be forever changed? And the questions go on and on, and we know that no one has the answers for us. In this time of lockdown, and with the restrictions in place, we search for other ways. Those ways are available to us, but we have to go deep within ourselves, to our faith beginnings. There are many indicators in the Bible; that Jesus said He'd be with us till the end of time; seek and you will find; ask and you will receive. I encourage you to use this Advent Season to do all those things you haven't had time for in the past, because you've been so busy preparing for Christmas. Pick up the Bible. Take advantage of live-streamed Mass; if not from your own parish, then from another. Follow faith-based webinars. Set aside time for daily prayer and reflection. Advent is a time of hopeful waiting and anticipation; it's a time to reflect and search deep within, and ultimately to experience the wonder and awe of the newborn King.

Since the introduction of my theme for Manitoba; *"The Seed that Flowers"*, I am gratified by the many ways that our Manitoba ladies have embraced it. Particularly over the past several months, I've seen how our members reach out to each other, how we demonstrate our love and caring for others in our community. I'm taking this opportunity to commend all of you for your gift of unselfish kindness, and I encourage you to keep it up – now, more than ever it's needed.

Our Annual Day of Celebration will be a virtual event this coming year, and Provincial Council is putting together a meaningful, spirit-filled day that we hope will be an enriching experience for you.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel be with each one of you and your families this Christmas Season. May She Bless You and Keep you in Her Loving Care throughout the coming year.

Best Wishes,

Janet Brunger
President
Manitoba Provincial Council



PAROISSE
ST. NORBERT
PARISH

110 - 80 St-Pierre Street Winnipeg MB R3V 1J8

✉ paroissestnorbert@gmail.com | ☎ 204-269-3240 | www.stnorbertparish.ca

CHRISTMAS 2020

WELCOME HIS PRESENCE

Dear friends,

Here we are already at the end of the civic year. Sometimes it was as if we were in a dream. At times, some days seemed to be stopped and others were too short. Sometimes we didn't know which day, whether it was Saturday or Wednesday, because every day was the same. It was as if we were on vacation, but an extended vacation. Being cooped up in our home made some people feel anxious, while others welcomed it as a time of retreat.

In fact, it was a year that made us reflect on who we are as human beings. We have been forced against our will to see what is important **in** our lives, and **for** our lives. We have been more sensitive to our mortality, but also to our thirst for life. In the end, we were **thirsty for presence**.

For those who did not notice, my license plate is PRESENCE. I had been looking for a bilingual word for a few years that would make people think on several levels. I made this change when I arrived in Saint Norbert. It was obviously God who inspired me to make this gesture.

And here we are at the start of the Christmas Season. I always marvel at this God who not only chose to make himself known through the prophets of old, but chose **to be present** in time. He has chosen to limit himself, to be cloistered in this world, to live our mortality, to quench our thirst for life by giving us THE LIFE that will never end.

Dear Parishioners, this Christmas, I wish you to discover and **welcome His Presence** every day, to bring His Presence to those who thirst for His presence.

Let us celebrate the birth of Jesus, God-with-us, the Presence of God who brings salvation, LIFE.

Father Charles Fillion
Pastor of Saint Norbert Parish

Fr. Donald Calloway's Hand-Delivered Letter to Pope Requesting Year of St. Joseph



Praise God for the Year of St. Joseph!

Pope Francis announced the Year of St. Joseph on Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as patron of the Universal Church.

The special year goes from Dec. 8, 2020 – Dec. 8, 2021.

The decree comes after Fr. Donald Calloway called for Pope Francis to declare a Year of St. Joseph after releasing his book, *Consecration to St. Joseph*. Fr. Calloway said he is unsure if this is a direct response, but that “there is no doubt the pope saw and read my letter.”

Fr. Donald Calloway shared an amazing story on Facebook about his call for the Year of St. Joseph. He wrote Pope Francis a letter in 2019 “asking him to please consider declaring a Year of St. Joseph,” because the Catholic Church has never had one.

Fr. Calloway included the letter he sent Pope Francis, which Bishop Hector Zordan of the Diocese of Gualeguaychu, Argentina hand-delivered.

Here's the text of Fr. Calloway's post:

“Last year (May 1, 2019), I wrote a letter to Pope Francis asking him to please consider declaring a Year of St. Joseph for the entire Church (see attached picture of the letter). My good friend Fr. Dante Aguero, MIC, in Argentina translated the letter into Spanish (see attached

picture).

“On May 4, 2019, Bishop Hector Zordan from the Diocese of Gualeguaychu, Argentina hand-delivered the letter to Pope Francis while in Rome. The picture shows the bishop and the pope holding my letter and discussing it.

“Today, December 8, 2020 (the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the exact date of the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis declares a Year of St. Joseph!

“Now is the time of St. Joseph!”

Fr. Calloway also [posted a video](#) reacting to the news. He said this is “one of the happiest days of my life” and the “best thing that Pope Francis has done.”

“We’re going to see unbelievable things happen now, my friends. I am absolutely positive of this.” [Fr. Calloway says](#). “The Church has, in some way, **awakened the sleeping giant: St. Joseph. The secret weapon of God has been brought on the battlefield right now**, at a critical time.

“Get ready, my friends. Great things are on the horizon.”

<https://www.churchpop.com/2020/12/10/revealed-fr-donald-calloways-hand-delivered-letter-to-pope-requesting-year-of-st-joseph/>

Pope Francis Declares Year of St. Joseph: 8 Ways to Gain a Plenary Indulgence Over the Next Year

This is amazing news!

Pope Francis declared the new liturgical year

as the **Year of St. Joseph**.

The year begins Dec. 8, on the 150th anniversary of Pope Bl. Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as patron of the Catholic Church. It is also the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Pope Francis establishes this year “in which every faithful following [St. Joseph's] example can daily strengthen their life of faith in the full fulfillment of God's will.”

“All the faithful will thus have the opportunity to commit themselves, with prayers and good works, to obtain with the help of Saint Joseph, head of the celestial Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human

and social tribulations that today grip the contemporary world,” the decree states.

The decree comes after Fr. Donald Calloway called for Pope Francis to declare a Year of St. Joseph after releasing his book, *Consecration to St. Joseph*. Fr. Calloway said he is unsure if this is a direct response, but that “there is no doubt the pope saw and read my letter.”

(Continued on page 12)

Pope Francis also added indulgence opportunities to the decree. The decree explains four ways to obtain a plenary indulgence throughout this liturgical year.

The indulgence requires the individual to follow the three usual conditions with **“the intention of complying as soon as possible). One must receive sacramental confession, holy communion, and pray for the Holy Father, as well as detach oneself from all sin.**

Here’s 8 Ways to Gain a Plenary Indulgence During the Year of St. Joseph:

1) Meditate for 30 minutes on the Our Father

2) Attend a spiritual day retreat that includes St. Joseph meditation

“Saint Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us to rediscover the filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and to correspond with profound discernment to the will of God.”

3) Carry out a corporal or spiritual work of mercy

“The virtue of justice practiced in an exemplary way by Joseph is full adherence to the divine law, which is the law of mercy, ‘because it is precisely the mercy of God that brings true justice to fulfillment.’

“Therefore, those who, following the example of St. Joseph, will carry out a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, will also be able to obtain the gift of Plenary indulgence.”

4) Recite the Holy Rosary with your family (or if engaged, with your future spouse)

“The main aspect of Joseph’s vocation was to be guardian of the Holy Family of Nazareth, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and legal father of Jesus. So that all Christian families are stimulated to recreate the same climate of intimate communion, love and prayer that was lived in the Holy Family.”

5) Entrust your day and/or work to St. Joseph, invoke his protection and intercession

“The plenary indulgence can therefore be achieved by anyone who **entrusts their activity daily to the protection of St. Joseph** and any faithful who **invoke the intercession** of the Artisan of Nazareth with prayers, **so that those looking for work can find a job and the work of everyone is more dignified.**”

6) Pray to St. Joseph for persecuted Christians

“The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who will **recite the Litanies to St. Joseph** (for the Latin tradition), or the **Akathistos to St. Joseph**, in whole or at least some of it (for the Byzantine tradition), or some other prayer to St. Joseph, proper to other liturgical traditions, in favor of the Church persecuted *ad intra* and *ad extra* and **for the relief of all Christians who suffer every form of persecution.**”

7) “Recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St.

Joseph”

“The Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of Saint Joseph, for example ‘To you, o Blessed Joseph,’ **especially on the recurrences of March 19 and May 1, on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on St. Joseph’s Sunday** (according to the Byzantine tradition), **on the 19th of each month and every Wednesday**, day dedicated to the memory of the Saint according to the Latin tradition.

8) For the elderly, sick, and dying: recite act of piety in St. Joseph’s honor, entrust life and discomforts to St. Joseph

“In the current context of health emergency, the gift of the plenary indulgence is particularly extended to the elderly, the sick, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave the house, who with a soul detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions, in their own home or where the impediment holds them, they will **recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, comfort of the sick and patron of a happy death, offering with trust in God the pains and discomforts of your life.**”

St. Joseph, patron of the Catholic Church, pray for us!

<https://www.churchpop.com/2020/12/08/pope-francis-declares-year-of-st-joseph-8-ways-to-gain-a-plenary-indulgence-over-the-next-year/>

The 7 Sorrows and Joys of St. Joseph

Sorrows:

- 1) The Doubts of St. Joseph
- 2) The Poverty of Jesus’ Birth
- 3) The Circumcision
- 4) The Prophecy of Simeon
- 5) The Flight into Egypt
- 6) The Return to Nazareth
- 7) The Loss of the Child Jesus

Joys:

- 1) Told of the Incarnation
- 2) Angels Adore the Infant Jesus
- 3) Holy Name of Jesus
- 4) Effects of the Redemption
- 5) Overthrow of the Idols in Egypt
- 6) Life with Jesus & Mary
- 7) Jesus Found in the Temple

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most chaste Spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who implored your help and sought your intercession was left unassisted. Full of confidence in your power, I fly unto you, and beg your protection.

Despise not, O foster-father of the Redeemer, my humble supplication, but in your bounty, hear and answer me. Amen.

A prayer for workers

Blessed St. Joseph, patron of all working people, obtain for me the grace to labor in a spirit of penance for the atonement of my many sins. Help me to be conscientious in my work so that I may give as full a measure as I have received.

May I labor in a spirit of thankfulness and joy, ever mindful of all the gifts I have received from God that enable me to perform these tasks. Permit me to work in peace, patience, and moderation, keeping in mind the account I must one day give of time lost, talents unused, good omitted, and vanity of success, so fatal to the work of God. Glorious St. Joseph, may my labors be all for Jesus, all through Mary, and all after your holy example in life and in death. Amen.

How to bless your home with Epiphany chalk

It is a powerful blessing that lasts the whole year.

Each year around the feast of the Epiphany many parishes throughout the world participate in an annual blessing of chalk. It is an ancient tradition that not only places God at the entrance of your home, it places your entire family under his protection.

The Epiphany blessing of chalk and homes is a centuries old tradition where priests would visit each home in their parish after the Feast of the Epiphany. Over time it became more difficult to accomplish such a feat as parishes became larger and larger and priests were stretched thin. For this reason it became an accepted tradition that a member of the household is able to lead this blessing in place of the priest.

The blessing has biblical roots, deeply tied to the Passover in the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt ... "take some of the blood [of the lamb], and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it ... The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt." (cf. Exodus 12:1-13)

It is no coincidence that the Epiphany blessing is traditionally written on the lintel of the main doorway and even some of the prayers echo God's words of protection that he gave to Moses. While the Epiphany blessing was not given in the same manner as it was to Moses, the Church provides it for our own spiritual benefit. The Church desires our salvation and so gives us beautiful sacramentals to assist us along the path to Eternal Life.

Traditionally a priest blesses chalk on the Feast of the Epiphany by saying the following prayer (from the *Roman Ritual*):

Bless, + O Lord God, this creature, chalk, and let it be a help to mankind. Grant that those who will use it with faith in your most holy name, and with it inscribe on the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Casper, Melchior, and Baltassar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health in body and protection of soul; through Christ our Lord.

The chalk is then distributed after Mass. If your local parish does not administer such a blessing, inquire around and see if any neighboring parishes do. Parishioners then take the chalk home and use it while invoking God's blessing upon their home.

It is a beautiful blessing, one that brings many graces upon those who practice it in faith and is an added protection against any spiritual enemies that may be lurking around.

The Blessing

Once you acquire the blessed chalk, either a priest or another member of the household can bless the home in the following manner (adapted from the *Roman Ritual*):

Upon entering the house [or at the front door]:

Priest/Head of Household: Peace be to this house.

All: And to all who dwell herein.

Priest: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

During the Magnificat, the room is sprinkled with holy water and incensed.

*All: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.*

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the
mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the
lowly.

He has filled the hungry
with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

After this is completed:

All: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

Priest: Our Father Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead and lead us not into temptation,

All: But deliver us from evil.

Priest: All they from Saba shall come

All: Bringing gold and frankincense.

Priest: O Lord, hear my prayer.

All: And let my cry come unto Thee.

Priest: Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a star didst on this day manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Priest: Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee— Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary.

All: And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light and kings in the splendor of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

Priest: Let us pray. Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

After the prayers of the blessing are recited, walk through the house and bless each room by sprinkling with Epiphany/holy water and incensing it.

Take the blessed chalk and first write the initials of the three Wise Men, connected with Crosses, over the inside of your front door (on the lintel, if possible). Then write the year, breaking up the numbers and the year so that they fall on both sides of the initials. It should look like this, for example

20 C+M+B 19

with the "20" being the millennium and century, the "C" standing for the first Wise Man, Caspar, the "M" standing for Melchior, the "B" standing for Balthasar, and the "19" standing for the decade and year. It is also popularly believed that the Kings' initials stand for "Christus mansionem benedicat" ("Christ bless this house").



https://aleteia.org/2018/01/05/how-to-bless-your-home-with-epiphany-chalk/?utm_campaign=NL_en&utm_source=daily_newsletter&utm_medium=mail&utm_content=NL_en

Are Novenas No No's?

By Patrick Madrid

NOVENAS HAVE a long history in Catholic spirituality, but recently the practice of this venerable and beautiful custom has fallen into decline. These days, many Catholics are rather hazy on what novenas are and what they're for. Some even suspect novenas of being dangerously close to superstition in the category of the "vain repetitions" Jesus condemned in Matthew 6:7.

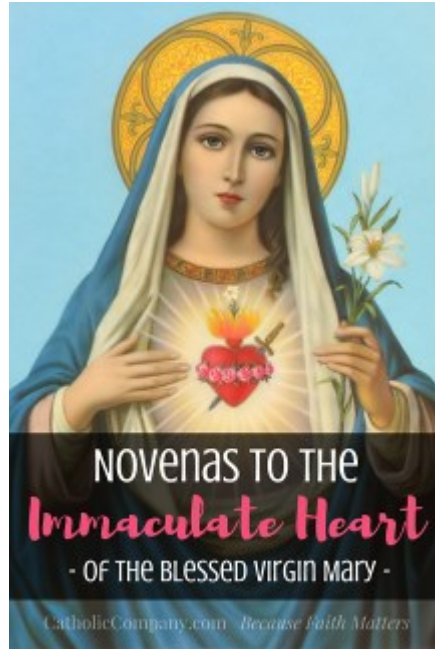
First, let's determine what a novena is. The 1989 Catholic Almanac defines novena as "a term designating public or private devotional practices over a period of nine consecutive days; or, by extension, over a period of nine weeks, in which one day a week is set aside for the devotions" (page 320).

The word "novena" comes from the Latin word *novem*, meaning nine. Each particular novena (to different saints, angels, or our Lady) has its own special prayers. Although, strictly speaking, a novena lasts nine days or nine weeks, the term can rightly be applied to intervals of prayer that are longer or shorter. For example, Jesus made a forty-day "novena" in the desert by fasting and praying in preparation for his public ministry. A biblical example of a novena is found in Acts 1:13-14 and Acts 2: 1. We're told the apostles, Mary, and other holy women gathered in Jerusalem and spent the nine days between the Ascension and Pentecost in intense prayer and contemplation. This first and greatest New Testament novena culminated on Pentecost with the descent of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 9:9, Paul made a post-conversion "mini-novena" (three days) at the home of Ananias. The Old Testament invests certain numbers (such as three, seven, twelve, and forty) with symbolic meaning. The "ninth hour" figures prominently in the New Testament. Jesus died at the ninth hour (Matt. 27:45; Mark 15:34,) and the Apostles frequently gathered to pray in the temple at the ninth hour (Acts 3:1).

Evidence that prayer novenas were practiced in the early Church is included Saint Augustine's caution against the practice for fear that some would be scandalized in thinking Christians were mimicking pagans. The historian Durandus, in his *Rationale* (Naples, 1478), says that "some did not approve this, [in order] to avoid the appearance of aping pagan customs." Many Christian writers defended novenas, arguing that the mere potential for superstitious abuse and passing similarity to pagan practices doesn't mitigate the salutary effects of praying novenas.

In the Middle Ages the most common form of novena was the novena of preparation. It included the recitation of special prayers on each of the nine days before Christmas in honor of the nine months our Lord spent in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This practice flourished in Spain and France as early



as the seventh century, but it was only in the seventeenth century that the preChristmas novena of preparation caught on in Italy (although novenas for deceased popes and cardinals had been celebrated there for centuries and, in Sicily, it was common for religious communities to observe novenas in the nine days prior to the feast day of their founder).

But what about the charge that novenas, which are simply formula prayers repeated at nine intervals, are condemned by Jesus in Matthew 6:7? The fact is that Jesus did not condemn formula prayers as such, nor even prayers that would be repeated. This is demonstrated in the very next verse, where he gives us the best of all formula prayers, the Our Father.

Neither is Matthew 6:7 a condemnation of the repetition of prayers. We know this because after teaching the formula prayer, Jesus, in Luke 18:2 1 and Luke 2 1:36, told us to pray always. Saint Paul echoed this need for continual prayer in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and in 2 Timothy 2:8. The Old Testament also corroborates the concept of repeating formula prayers.

The Psalms were written for the express

purpose of being sung or prayed repeatedly, week after week, in the synagogues. It's important to keep in mind that the Holy Spirit—God Himself—inspired these repetitious prayers in order that they be used by His people. In other words, God Himself intended that these prayers be repeated, just as he inspired the writers to set them down on paper.

Examples of this kind of divinely inspired "repetitious prayer" are seen in passages such as Psalm 136:1-26 (where the refrain "for his mercy endures forever" repeats twenty six times in a row!) and Daniel 3:52-90 (where the refrains "Blessed are you. . . praiseworthy and exalted forever" and "Praise and exalt him above all forever" are repeated many times).

Now let's consider the meaning of Jesus' condemnation of "vain repetition." It pivots on his use of the word "vain"—not, as is commonly thought by Protestants, on the word "repetition." At the time of Christ, pagans had a silly habit of running through a tiresome litany of titles when addressing their gods. They believed that if they didn't use the correct "title of the day" when invoking the god they were supplicating, the god, quite petulantly, would refuse to hear their prayers. In order to solve this dilemma, the pagans resorted to "scattershot" litanies of great length designed to mention any conceivable title the god might desire to be called by on that day. Completely aside from the biblical condemnation of praying to false gods (see Exodus 20:4-5), Jesus condemned the uselessness (vainness) of the pagan prayer hoopla, complete with its elaborate titles and endless repetitions, precisely because the gods weren't up there to hear it.

The fact is, pagan periods of special prayers bear nothing more than a passing resemblance to Catholic novenas. Those who condemn novenas as "pagan" should remember that by using the same logic, one could condemn fasting, hymn singing, meeting for worship on a particular day of the week, and even praying itself, simply because pagans also did all these things.

Patrick Madrid hosts the daily "Patrick Madrid Show" on Relevant Radio, broadcast on 150+ AM & FM stations across the country and on the Relevant Radio app. He is the author of 26 books.

<https://patrickmadrid.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Novenas.pdf>



Catholic School of Evangelization

P.O. Box 570
St. Malo, MB, R0A 1T0
P: (204) 347 5396
F: (866) 636 7783
www.catholicway.net

2019-20

ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW



Discernment Retreat
January 2020



Family Advent Retreat
November 2019

VIRTUAL LENTEN RETREAT

4868 views from 20 different countries

SUMMER CAMP

8 counsellors, 2 Caravans, 6 Weeks, 11 camps, 64 road trips, 115 campers, 240 hours with campers, 1152 hours staff together, 1 amazing team life

WINTER CAMP

5 weekends of camp – 15 counsellors – 90 campers

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

23 participants (7 men, 16 women)

FAMILY ADVENT RETREAT

7 families (38 people, including helpers)

VOCATIONS

1 camp alum **ordained**,
1 camp alum **promises at Madonna House**,
1 student alum second **vows**,
1 student alum discerning **religious life** with a community,
1 camp alum in **seminary**, lots of **families** and **babies**
5 camp alumni at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission
3 camp/retreat alum on NET



WISH LIST

- The CSE is in need of the following gently used items! If you are interested in donating any of these, please email anita@catholicway.net.
- Tax receipts may be issued for in-kind donations.

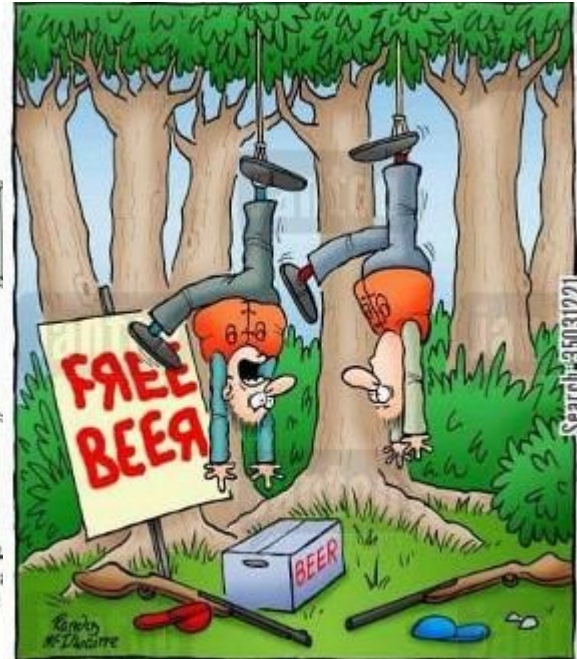
- Barbeque
- Shop Vac
- Gas cards
- Office Supplies (paper, etc.)
- Weed Whacker
- Large foldable plastic tables
- Limestone, soil, grass seed
- LCD projector
- Dehumidifiers
- Knife sharpening stone
- Whisks
- Corelle plates & bowls
- Laptop
- Flat screen TV
- Craft supplies
- Altar candles



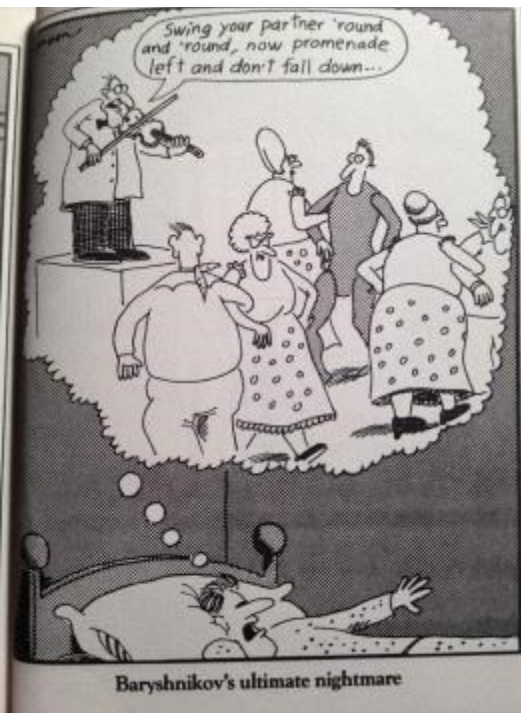
"You know, we're just not reaching that guy."



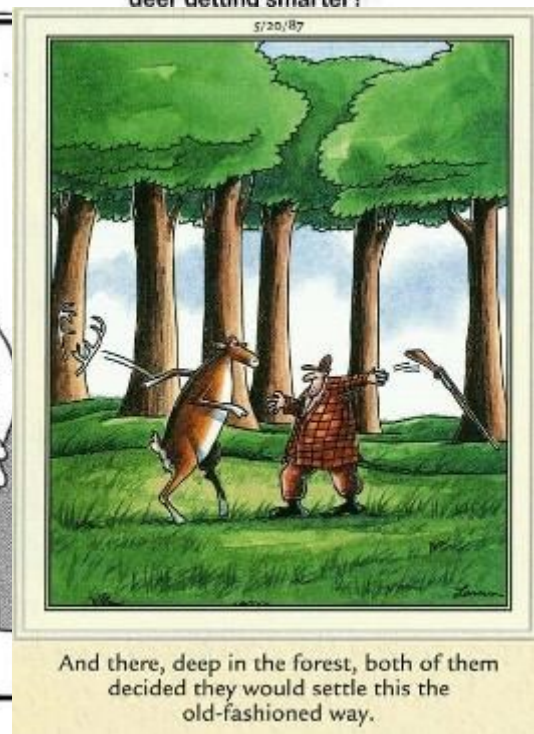
"The problem, Mr. Fudd, is that you've been having a subliminal effect on everyone in the factory. We're proud of our product, Mr. Fudd, and there's no company in the world that builds a finer skwoo dwivuh. ... Dang! Now you got me doing it!"



"Are we getting dumber or are the deer aettina smarter?"



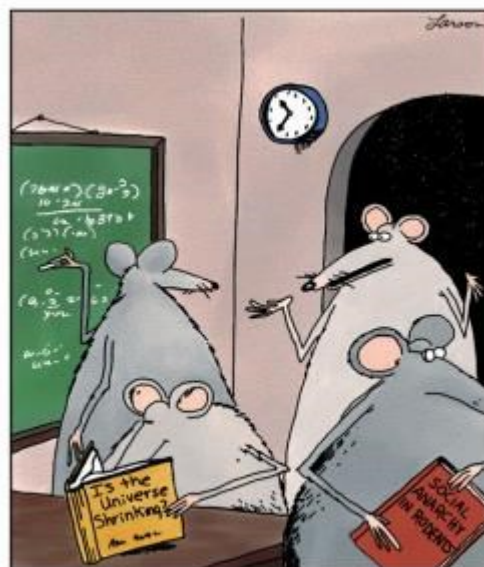
Baryshnikov's ultimate nightmare



And there, deep in the forest, both of them decided they would settle this the old-fashioned way.



"So, then... Would that be 'us the people' or 'we the people'?"



"Aw, c'mon, you guys—the cat's away and everyone's so dead serious."

