



Notre Dame de Lorette Catholic Women's League



Care for our
Common Home

June 2020

Currently collecting:

*Tin for the Bin
Pill Bottles
Feminine Hygiene
Products & Toiletries
Tabs for Wheelchairs
Used Eyeglasses
Children's Sacramental
Clothing*

**Here's the Perfect Social-Distancing
Activity that helps our community!**
Cleanup of Hwy 207
From McDougall Rd to the Junction of Hwy 206
Many hands make light work

**Meet at
Lorette Arena
@ 9:00 am
for instructions
and supplies**

**Saturday, June 6
Rain Date June 13**

In keeping with Public Health orders, a maximum of 2 people will travel in a car to the start-up locations. Pilot drivers will ferry people back to their vehicles as needed.

Face masks are recommended when travelling with someone else (exception is for members of the same household).

 Sponsored by the Notre Dame de Lorette
Catholic Women's League 

Editor's Note: There will be a July, 2020 newsletter










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Cecilia Tsessaze
Joanne Touchette
Marilyn Toutant

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2  Cat Larson	3 	4	5  Jennifer & Benjamin Poitra	6 Hwy Cleanup and Tree Planting (see pgs 1 & 4)
7	8	9	10 	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 	18	19	20 Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary to our Intentions
21 	22	23	24  Carol Mravinec	25	26	27
28  Monica Chernichan	29  Jacqueline Bouchard	30	Please pray for the continuing conversion of Charles Chilton, Cary Chilton and Trevor Chilton who will be baptized into the Catholic faith on Sunday, June 7, 2020 on the Feast of the Holy Trinity.			



Lacey's Address

Hello ladies and Father Mario!

I hope you are all doing well and that you have been enjoying the warm weather. As this may be the last newsletter until September, (we'll keep you posted), we'll just do a quick recap of a few special points from the previous months, followed by upcoming activities.

Our **communications** have been going strong to keep you all updated and entertained with emails, newsletters, cookbooks, Novenas and favourite hymns. Our cookbook has been put together and sent out. It received all kinds of praise from across Canada after we posted it on the CWL National website and FaceBook page.

Our deepest **condolences and prayers** to the Summers family on the death of Pat, widower of our CWL sister, Carol Curtain-Summers, as well as to the Durand family on the death of their patriarch, Denis Durand, father of our CWL sister, Janine Durand-Rondeau

Our **C&S gift card fundraiser** has come to an end with our selling \$4500 worth, giving us a profit of \$750. We also received donations of \$160 – THANK YOU! This number can continue to grow with sales from the GroFundMeFridays for the next couple of months. If you forgot to buy cards this year or have run out of the cards you bought, remember to buy on Friday and C&S and get them to credit the CWL. We receive 15% of the sales!

It is with sad hearts that we have decided that it is in everyone's best interest to cancel **our annual BBQ** for this year. Hopefully, we can look forward to gathering again in the fall.

We have also had to cancel our **parish-wide baby shower** for the month of May. In the meantime, if a need arises, we can lead an impromptu collection at that time.

On a positive note we have received a **scholarship application** from a graduating student from Lorette and are awaiting word regarding graduation celebrations or if it will need to be mailed out.

Our upcoming events:

Highway 207 Clean up will be held on June 6 with the 13th as the rain date. We will be meeting at 9:00am at the arena to be given supplies and assigned our stretch of highway. We will drive our own vehicles to the designated starting points and a pilot vehicle will bring us back to our vehicles once the cleaning of that stretch of highway is done. Please wear a mask if possible; additional masks will be available on site. Remember to dress for the weather and possible water in the ditches.

In response to the **CWL's 100th anniversary**, our council is doing two things:

- Our CWL will be **planting an Autumn Blaze Maple tree** June 6 at the church following our highway cleanup. This tree will not only commemorate the CWL's 100th anniversary but will also be a response to our national theme, *Care for Our Common Home*. Thank you C&S in helping us select the tree and for the great service we received. The Knights of Columbus have graciously agreed that we could plant the tree close to their pro-life monument in the front of the church. Following the planting, we will take a group picture and send it to national office for publication on Facebook and on the national website. (see page 4)
- Some of the past presidents got together and scoured the CWL photo albums and archives for **photos to be submitted** for possible publication to The Catholic Women's League's 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coffee Table Book. We selected five memorable photos and these are included on pages 6 & 7

As per the directive from the Archbishop's Homily this past Sunday, a **collection of non-perishable food items** will begin June 1 in the diocese for First Nation communities. Please check page ---- for more details of this .

New Life will be coming to our parish this fall beginning with the weekend retreat October 3 & 4. It's not too late to sign up for some videos and talks to help prepare for the weekend. Just contact Suzanne (smooregaap@gmail.com) for the information.

Our **Sud, Spud and Steak** is still tentatively scheduled for September 26th. We will have to wait until August to make the further decision as to whether it needs to be cancelled. In the meantime, if you have any silent auction gifts we could use, we would love to have them!

Wishing all of you happy summer holidays and I hope to see you on June 6th!



Let's all remember all biological and a spiritual fathers on Father's Day.

Lacey

2020 Pope's Intentions

June

That those who suffer would find hope in the Healing Heart of Jesus.

Suffering

2020 Centenary Project



Care for our
Common Home



To commemorate the League's 100th Anniversary and in keeping with the national theme, every diocesan council across Canada is asked to plant a tree in a place of honour to help the environment and can be enjoyed by your community.

Take a picture of the tree planting event and send it to national office by July 1. The pictures will be placed on display at the 2020 national convention.

National President Anne-Marie Gorman will plant a tree along with a plaque in Montreal at the 2020 national convention to commemorate where The Catholic Women's League of Canada first began.

Join us in celebrating our "roots" from the past century while we look to the future as we "branch out" into the next century!



Join us on June 6, 2020

**following our Highway Cleanup
for the planting of our Autumn Blaze Maple tree
5 metres northwest of the Knights of Columbus
pro-Life memorial
in front of our church
to be followed by a group picture
which will be submitted to National Office.
fellowship, coffee and snacks provided**

The Autumn Blaze Maple tree is a hybrid of the red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and the silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*). It boasts both beautiful fall foliage and a shapely form. The branching pattern is dense and ascending, and it sports a rounded to oval crown. Maturity comes quickly: It can grow as fast as 3 feet per year under the right conditions and mature at approximately 50ft fall and a width of 40ft. As its name suggests, the Autumn Blaze Maple tree comes into its own in fall, as its fall color is a brilliant orange-red.

MAMAWEWESINI-TA (Eating Together)

First Nations and Archdiocese of Saint Boniface Food Sharing Project

Launch: June 1, 2020

Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

To help our communities:

- Sagkeeng
- Hollow Water
- Bloodvein
- Little Grand Rapids
- Pauingassi
- Berens River
- Poplar River
- Manigotagan
- Seymourville

Drop-Off Locations in Wpg

- Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens
- Saint Alphonsus
- Christ the King

Non-Perishable Foods Requested:

sugar	crackers
flour	Jello
yeast	rice
peanut butter	puddings
soups	jams
pasta sauce	dried beans
pasta	cream of wheat
oatmeal	pork & beans
brown sugar	
canned meat	
canned salmon	
tuna	
baby food	
Cheese Whiz	
dried peas	
granola bars	
cookies	

Monetary Donations:

Monetary donations to buy perishable items such as vegetables, fruit, eggs, dairy products, etc.

Beginning June 1:

- by cheque *Archidiocèse de Saint-Boniface*, with Food Sharing Project indicated on the memo line, to the Archdiocesan Centre at 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale
- online, click Donate on the archdiocesan website and designate your gift to the Mamawewesini-ta Food Sharing Project.

Pope gives us a special prayer for this year



"Make us courageous in embracing the changes required to seek the common good." On the May 24 feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians, Pope Francis is encouraging that we pray a special prayer this year. It is a prayer to ask for the grace to care for our most fragile brothers and sisters, and for the home we all share.

Loving God,
Creator of Heaven, Earth, and all therein contained.
Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we can be part of Creation, your gift.
Be present to those in need in these difficult times,
especially the poorest and most vulnerable.
Help us to show creative solidarity
as we confront the consequences of the global pandemic.
Make us courageous in embracing
the changes required to seek the common good.
Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected and interdependent.
Enable us to succeed in listening and responding
to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.
May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.
We pray through Christ our Lord,
under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians, Amen.

https://aleteia.org/2020/05/25/pope-gives-us-a-special-prayer-for-this-year/?utm_campaign=NL_en&utm_source=daily_newsletter&utm_medium=mail&utm_content=

Our council Responds and Submits 5 Photos of Our Favourite Highlights



Picture this!

The Centenary Committee invites you to look into your archives for pictures of memorable CWL events that happened in your parish, diocese or province over the past 100 years.

Bring your pictures to the national convention in 2020 and they will be put on display for the duration of the convention.

The Centenary Committee will be choosing pictures to be included in the 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coffee Table Book.

We can't wait to see your pictures that capture and celebrate the past 100 years!



Catching the Fire with our own Catcher, MB Leader, Jolene Capina
Notre Dame de Lorette, MB Council #2985

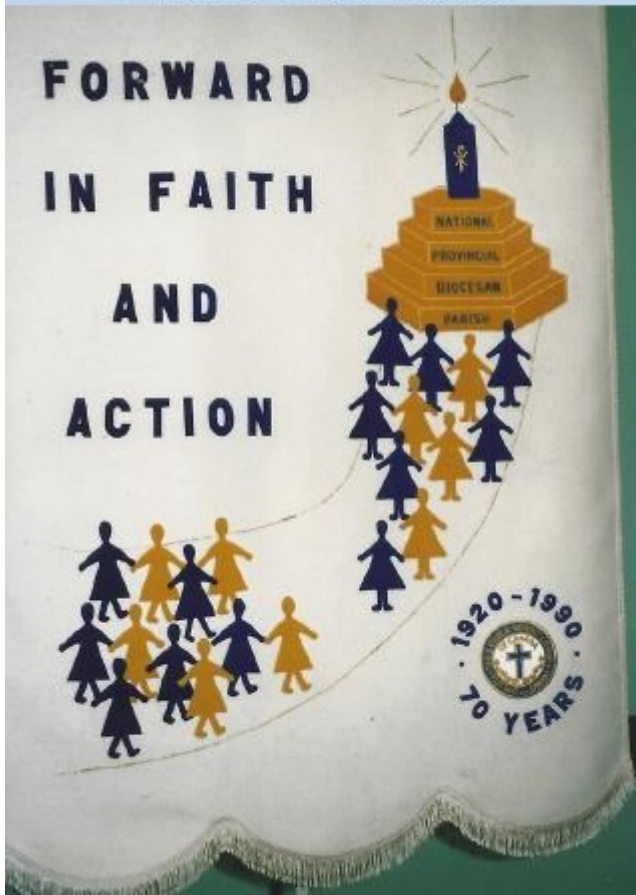


Hosting Diocesan Convention with Flair
Notre Dame de Lorette, MB Council #2985



Our Last Three Submissions

Our Banner Represents Manitoba at the National Convention
Notre Dame de Lorette, MB Council #2985



Belle Travels With Us to Help Sell our Patented Buttons
Notre Dame de Lorette, MB Council #2985



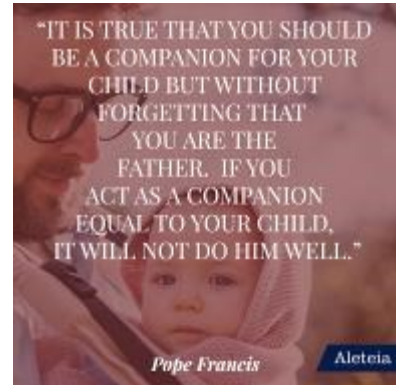
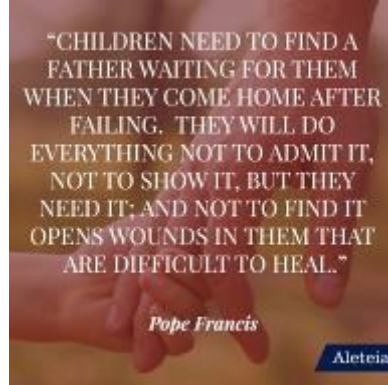
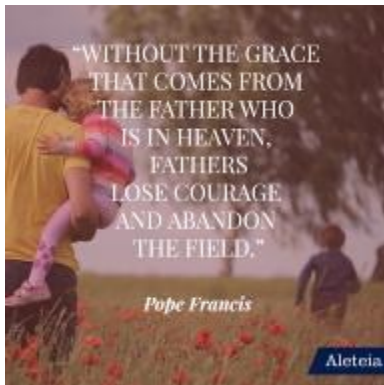
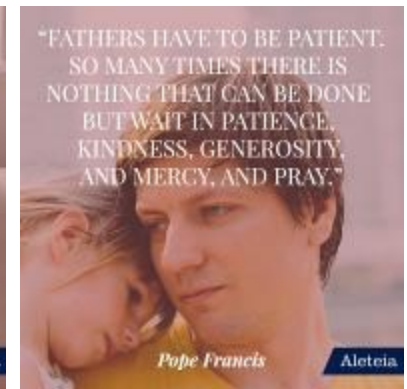
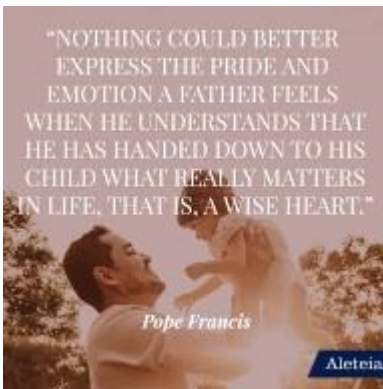
The disciples saw Jesus raise someone from the dead, they were catechized by him, he taught them how to preach, how to forgive, how to love. Yet after his Resurrection and before the sending of the Holy Spirit, we find them in a locked room, filled with fear. That's where many people's spiritual lives are, too—trapped, dry, and stagnant. But on Pentecost, something happened that changed the disciples—and that same something has to happen to us. We can't live our spiritual lives in a locked room, but in front of the world, alive and full of joy. — Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR from *The Wild Goose*

In the book of Genesis, the first words out of God's mouth to humanity were 'You are free.' God has created us to be free! It's always been his desire and plan that the human person would be free. Freedom comes first and foremost from a relationship with God who has created us that way. God shared His freedom with us. — Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR from *The Wild Goose*

Ringling of the Bells at Noon on Sundays In Appreciation of all our Frontline Workers



Celebrating Godly Fathers



3 Ways St. Joseph is the Perfect Model of Catholic Fatherhood

St. Joseph did not have conjugal relations with her. He was chaste throughout his marriage, thus allowing it to serve, in a special way, as a preeminent sign of God's loving union with humanity.

We follow the example of St. Joseph when we regulate our sexual desires. For single persons, chastity requires abstinence from any type of sexual activity; for married couples, it includes mutual fidelity between spouses, as well as an openness to the gift of life.

3) St. Joseph was Industrious

St. Joseph was a carpenter by trade (Mt 13:55). As such, he knew the value of a hard day's work. He also understood the challenges of providing for a family.

His industriousness inspires us to greater diligence in our professions. Regardless of our respective career paths, we should always strive to imitate St. Joseph and put forth our very best efforts. Christ promises to repay us for the conscientious performance of our duties (Col 3:23-24).

Conclusion

The righteousness, chastity, and industriousness of St. Joseph make him the perfect model of Catholic fatherhood. We should all seek to follow his example. In so doing, he will help us become the fathers God wants us to be.

<https://churchpop.com/2017/03/20/3-ways-st-joseph-is-the-perfect-model-of-catholic-fatherhood/>

St. Joseph was a widower chosen by God to be the head of the Holy Family. He was a faithful husband to Mary, and a devoted foster father to Jesus Christ. Sacred Scripture portrays him as a pious man who always followed the will of God.

As we prepare to celebrate his Solemnity, we would do well to reflect on the top three ways in which St. Joseph serves as the perfect model of Catholic fatherhood:

1) St. Joseph was Righteous

The Gospel according to St. Matthew describes St. Joseph as a "righteous man" (Mt 1:19). In the first century, a righteous man was one who obeyed the laws of God. We know St. Joseph was obedient because he and Mary took the infant Jesus to the temple for consecration in accordance with the Mosaic law (Lk 2:22-24).

Today, we imitate St. Joseph by obeying the Divine Law as contained in the Ten Commandments and Eight Beatitudes. We also obey the Five Precepts of the Catholic Church.

2) St. Joseph was Chaste

The Catholic Church teaches Mary was a perpetual virgin. It

Living My Godly Vocation as a Father



Throughout my childhood, I remember my father saying that a man is to be the priest, prophet, provider, and protector of his home. As my family has continued to grow, I have come to understand and fully realize the importance of his words. As priest he is the spiritual shepherd of his family, nurturing them and regularly interceding before God on their behalf. As prophet he humbly strives to lead, admonish and discipline, always directing them not by his own opinion or the trends of the culture but by the truth of scripture. He is the head of the house, responsible for providing for his family's needs: food, clothing, shelter but even more importantly giving them the unconditional love, confidence, respect and security they need to live in healthy relationship with each other and those outside their walls. The primary protector, he is charged with shielding his family from physical, emotional, and spiritual threats that would be harmful, negative and destructive to individual family members as well as the collective unit.

This is the goal that I set for myself as a father and husband. It's my job to discover and encourage them to be who God is calling them to be, and to show them that their identity and value is not dependent upon their talents, popularity

or success but in what He says about them. It's my job to lift their head when they fall and encourage them to boldly conquer the next challenge their world has to offer. It's my responsibility to read their favourite stories until the pages tear and cheer them on at baseball games and ballet recitals. From changing diapers to conversations about sex and dating fatherhood is a great responsibility and a great privilege. Almost anyone can make a baby, but in a time where fatherlessness is rampant, we are in desperate need of men who are willing to courageously become the daddies they are called to be. Outside of being a husband, there is no more important role that a man could have.

My dad has always been my hero. He's the man and father that I aspire to be. He is an amazing example to me and so many other men who have crossed his path. Nearly 20 years later I still have high school football teammates tell me about the influence and impact my dad had on their lives. As early as I can remember, I watched my dad's every move intently. From the football field to the gym to the pulpit I wanted to be like him in every way. Like most children who are blessed to have a father in the home he seemed larger than life.

He was always there for me, disciplining me, loving me unconditionally, playing video games and making us laugh. As I grew older I did not always understand or like the rules he put in place, but I see now that they were there for a good reason, teaching me to walk with integrity, conviction, compassion and purpose.

More than just providing for my siblings and me, my dad was present for us no matter what it was that we were doing. I remember when I was in the 9th grade, I had a football game that was hours away from home and I didn't think he would be able to make it. But as I was playing, I heard a loud familiar voice in the crowd yell out, "Let's Go Benjamin!" and I knew

right away that my dad had come to cheer me on. Suddenly, I was so encouraged and inspired to play my best because I knew that my dad was watching me. Even as a pro that feeling has not changed! This is the power of a father. We must never undermine or underestimate it.

Though as a child I thought he was, my dad wasn't always perfect and neither am I. As much as I desire to be, I know that I can't be the perfect parent to my kids. In word and deed, I fall short daily, yet it is in these moments that we are provided an opportunity to demonstrate to our children what repentance, forgiveness and grace truly look like. As fathers it is imperative that we understand that our presence is more important than our presents. Spending time with our children will pay greater dividends and affirm their worth in a more powerful way than the gifts we give them in passing ever will.

The days seem long but this season of life is short. When it comes to the precious lives we have been entrusted with we are not promised tomorrow and must cherish each day as we train them to be the men and women who will one day lead and love their own families and communities.

Dad's, remember, we are our son's first hero and our daughter's first love. May we live accordingly. Benjamin Watson

Happy Father's Day!



Actor in ‘The Chosen’ Hopes to Lead People ‘to Christ in Some Way’

Jonathan Roumie credits his Catholic faith as the foundation of his portrayal of Jesus.

LOS ANGELES — Jonathan Roumie, the actor at the center of the highest-grossing crowdfunded media project in history, *The Chosen*, credits his Catholic faith as the foundation of his portrayal of Jesus.

Sitting down with the Register for a recent Zoom interview (to view the full interview, visit <https://youtu.be/nxnOWhqTMyw>), the 45-year-old actor revealed how, providentially, events within his life led to his casting in *The Chosen*, a series highlighting the ministry of Jesus.



“My mother is Roman Catholic — she’s from Ireland — and my father is from Egypt, and his father is from Syria. I was raised Greek Orthodox, baptized Greek Orthodox, but later transitioned to Roman Catholic, when we moved from New York City to the suburbs,” Roumie told the Register. “What really has resonated with me is that both are sacramentally based. This is how I have found myself really going deeper into my faith — through the sacraments.”

Roumie explained that, while never falling away from his faith, he did have what he called a “deeper conversion” within the last few years. “There was never really a point in my life where I felt I was disconnected from my faith: maybe a little lukewarm, a little casual at times — never disconnected. God’s been too prevalent in my life, from as long as I can remember.”

He went on to discuss a time when he was out of work in L.A. Out of food, overdrawn with only \$20 in his pocket, he was stressed,

in debt and questioning his purpose in life. “I was on my knees, and I said to God, ‘I don’t know why you brought me to this place. I don’t know why I’m here. I think I’m doing what I’m supposed to be doing. I think you put this into my heart, to be an artist, to somehow serve you — but I can’t make ends meet. I’m going to need you to step in.’” Roumie said it was an incredibly painful moment of complete surrender as he found himself willing to walk away from what he worked so hard for.

“I had been asking for a long time, ‘If this is not what I am supposed to be doing, let me know,’ and I didn’t get anything else that hit me. I should be doing instead — but here I am, really brought to my knees. I was in prayer, and I gave it all to him and said, ‘You take over.’”

Roumie explained how, later that same day, he was surprised to receive money in the mail that covered all his upcoming bills. “I said, ‘So this is how it’s going to be? Complete surrender, huh? Okay. You know, from that moment on, my life turned around — and has never been the same. I’ve had obstacles like all of us do, but how I handled them was completely different from that moment on. I

resolved to trust that even in the eleventh hour, God will handle it. I just need to remain true to him and trust him, and he will never let me down — and he hasn’t. Three months from that day, I was confirmed for the role of Jesus in *The Chosen*.”

Trust in the divine mercy of God resonates with Roumie. Explaining the circumstances behind his reception of a beautiful icon depicting the image of Divine Mercy, Roumie also explained that his choice to livestream praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and novena leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday was meant to inspire others in their trust in God.

“I’ve had notes from many of my followers — many non-Catholics — asking where they could get rosary beads to pray with us. One woman, who had never prayed the Rosary or chaplet, messaged me saying she decided to become Catholic, had signed up for RCIA.”

Discussing how he has navigated an industry rife with moral compromise, Roumie admitted that he had never faced having to

turn down a high-paying role that violated his “red lines” of faith and morals, but wasn’t convinced he wouldn’t have justified accepting it. “Looking back, I know it must have been God preserving me until I was strong enough to face this reality — real success. Maybe, at one time, I would’ve been open — as artists, we must try and be open to the redeeming qualities a character may have. Now, however, these [compromising] roles just don’t interest me.”

He stressed, “I’m interested in doing projects that uplift the human spirit.”

“I’m also very cognizant of the responsibility I have, now, playing this role of Jesus,” he explained.

Speaking about his role as the Son of God, Roumie mused, “For me, as a Christian, if I really am practicing my faith, God is part of my existence in everything that I do; so I’m not only acknowledging him, fully and completely with my being, but I am trying to evaluate how this role can better be served through my faith, through the lens of my faith.”

He added, “I have a much greater advantage than, I think, anybody who has played Christ — for the ability to ‘humanize’ him — because of how long we get to take with the stories that we’re telling.”

“It’s been encouraging to lean into his humanity,” he added.

Roumie was quick to embrace the role, insisting that humor and strong, relatable masculinity were key features of the Incarnate Word.

“You know, Dallas [Jenkins, director of *The Chosen*] loves to infuse levity where it’s appropriate. To have had a life, and to know what was coming for him, Jesus had to have dealt with it in some way. It wasn’t like he was working out, bodybuilding, to get all of that stress and tension out of the way. How did he deal with these circumstances as a human? As God, we know — it was his destiny, and he ordained it — but being fully human as well as divine, we know he had human emotions in the confines of the human vessel. How do you deal with stress? I like to believe he laughed a lot. He loves

(Continued on page 12)

"Wrapped in the Arms of our Mother"

In support of the 2022 National CWL Convention



Pashmina

\$30.00^{ea}
plus shipping

For those cool times.

Pashmina Orders

Contact Diane Nadeau

cwlpashmina@gmail.com

Payments by etransfer
to above email

or

Cheques payable to
2022 National CWL Convention



**Have you ever been cool
at a meeting/convention?
Let Our Lady wrap you
in her arms with a
warm cuddly and soft
cashmere pashmina.
Available in cream or
CWL blue.**

In the Blessed Virgin Mary, we don't have someone who detracts from the greater glory of God, but somebody who gloriously displays God's power more excellently than anybody else, because of what Christ has done. Mary holds up even higher for the world to see all that Jesus Christ has merited for us. — **Dr. Scott Hahn** from *The Gift of Our Blessed Mother*

(Continued from page 11)

children, and children love to laugh. That's what, I guess, I bring to it, instinctually, and it seems to have resonated with what people envision Jesus to be like: He experienced his humanity to its fullest, while also being completely divine."

Roumie also discussed a special moment in the first season, where Jesus asked a group of children to say the Shema — the "foundational" prayer of the Jewish people. Transfixed in this moment, his face reveals a mix of emotions: love, joy and sorrow. "Hearing these children pray this foundational prayer, essentially directed towards him, the Godhead in him, is so emotional. For me, that moment was trying to communicate the perfect relationship between the Creator and his creation: that perfect act of praise and worship brought to him by these pure souls, that at this point in their development are still just 100% love. Their souls have not yet been corrupted by mankind, the times, the earth ... so we have this level of purity that is just reaching the

Creator that can't help but stir the humanity in him. It was just music to his ears."

Considered a resounding success, the critically acclaimed first multiseason series on the life of Christ, and having been independently released around the world to more than 180 countries, *The Chosen* is now crowdfunding to produce Season Two. It may be downloaded for free through an app on the series website.

Roumie says he feels blessed by the opportunity. "For me, at this juncture in my life, I know this is what God has put me here to do: in a very imperfect way, as a human, to be a vessel for the Spirit of his Son to work through this TV project; to work through this prayer time online ... to be able to be transparent about my faith and incorporate it into my art. I think people are hungry for it. I think the fact that we're going through this pandemic has allowed people to reevaluate their relationships to

their Creator, or even start looking for that relationship. If I can lead them to Christ in some way, I feel that that's what I'm here to do."

<https://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/actor-in-the-chosen-hopes-to-lead-people-to-christ-in-some-way?fbclid=IwAR2co11Rh8Hikz-wSOIMd5PqXQp1->

**"Behold, I am doing
a new thing."**

- #1 highest crowd-funded media project of all-time
- 1st-ever project to launch in every country via its own app, "The Chosen"
- 500,000 app downloads in over 180 countries
- 74 languages currently in translation

The CHOSEN

New Converts Need Time to Grow

New Converts

under Pope Francis was now “soft” on Islam. Anne Rice, best known for her vampire novels, reverted to the Church in 1998 after spending many years as an atheist. She left again in 2010, citing her continuing faith in Christ but her inability to belong to a “quarrelsome, hostile, disputatious, and deservedly infamous group.”

These are examples of well-known converts, but there have been plenty of defections among Catholics known only to their family, friends, and God. I’ve lost track of how many converts I’ve seen on social media announcing their break with the Church since the resurgence of the clerical abuse scandal in 2018.

It’s impossible to generalize about what causes de-conversion. Just as in conversions, the circumstances are unique to the individual. But perhaps we can reflect on these de-conversions and learn from them how to better support the converts who remain.

Every Easter season, we read through the Acts of the Apostles during Mass. One of the major events of Acts is the conversion of Saul, which we read this year during the third week of Easter (Acts 9:1–20). Unfortunately, after telling the story of Saul’s conversion at Mass, the liturgists chose to skip forward to Saul’s re-entry into public life, neglecting to mention what happened to him immediately after his conversion.

Once Saul’s blindness was lifted, he immediately set out to fulfill the commission Christ had given him to convert the world (9:15). He entered the synagogues of Damascus, telling everyone that Jesus is the Son of God (9:20). Rather than inspiring new conversions, Saul’s listeners grew angry, eventually deciding to kill him (9:23). He had to make a quick nighttime escape from Syria and returned to Jerusalem. Things didn’t go much better there because the new convert’s fellow Christians remembered all too well that this was the guy who’d recently been trying to kill them (9:24–26).

Finally, the apostles decided to send Saul home to Tarsus (9:30). The liturgical readings pick up again with Saul’s re-emergence from Tarsus (11:25). Note that Barnabas didn’t take Saul to Damascus or to Jerusalem. Rather, he took Saul to Antioch, where Saul probably wasn’t well known yet, and “it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians” (11:26).

What lessons can we take from the aftermath of Saul’s conversion?

In some cases, new converts’ zeal might outpace their prudence. Conversion is such a momentous experience in a person’s life that it might be strange if the convert didn’t want

to share his story. And the great graces of our lives aren’t meant to be bottled up but shared (Matt. 5:15–16). Nonetheless, “for everything there is a season” (Eccles. 3:1), and some new converts may need guidance from more mature members of the faith in how to temper their zeal and channel it appropriately.

Sharing one’s conversion story publicly is a momentous decision and converts might need to be reassured that it’s a step that can wait. Although there is more than one way to interpret Saul’s story, it’s within the realm of permitted opinion to speculate that, within a short time, Saul managed to stir up the Syrian Jews to plotting his death and to frighten the Christians in Jerusalem, who worried about his intentions. The apostles appear to have thought that sending Saul home for a while could cool down the controversy. And when he was brought back into action, Barnabas chose to first take Saul to Antioch, a city where he didn’t have a reputation to precede him.

As tempting as it may be to invite new converts to write down their story or to give interviews about their conversion, some converts may need time first to grow roots in the Church. Allowing for space for growth and discernment, to just be Catholic, without unnecessary pressures or expectations to meet, could be helpful. Those converts who want to jump up on a stage right away might benefit from gentle counsel to wait awhile. The stages will still be available to them down the road, but time taken to live the faith as an ordinary Catholic won’t be wasted.

I don’t believe there are many people out there who play-act at conversion. Most who radically change their moral and religious viewpoints do so from a place of deep conviction. The costs are just too high for most people to convert insincerely. Even Norma McCorvey, that shattered soul who reportedly came to the pro-life movement bitter about how she’d been treated by pro-choice activists, probably at least hoped for acceptance and security from pro-lifers.

But, no matter how good the intentions, when converts are treated as trophies, there’s a danger that their stories may do more harm than good—not just to others who may be wary of the converts’ motives or doubt their sincerity, but also to themselves. Because, as Jesus warned, a seed that doesn’t have firm roots in the soil in which it’s been planted is susceptible to burning out and withering away.

https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/new-converts-need-time-to-grow?utm_source=Catholic%20Answers%20Daily&utm_campaign=0c3f60fe16-CADaily052820&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6b4f9e3af2-0c3f60fe16-212576237&mc_cid=0c3f60fe16&mc_eid=b70d22d586

For nearly thirty years now, American Catholics have been hooked on conversion stories. When I became Catholic in the mid-nineties, the conversion stories were everywhere. Magazine articles, audio recordings, books, television shows—the market for conversion stories was red hot.

These conversion stories have done a great deal of good, especially when the new converts focused on the factors that convinced them to become Catholic: scriptural passages, writings from the Church Fathers, logical deductions; they all served to show why it was reasonable to become Catholic and remain Catholic. Many converts liked to share how some big-name fellow convert’s story played its own role in their conversion, and these subsequent conversions served to demonstrate that there is evangelistic power in sharing conversion stories.

But conversions can, at times, be fleeting. Jesus warned that some seeds would be sown in rocky ground, where they’d spring up quickly but wither away just as fast for lack of roots (Matt. 13:5-6). And, as we learned recently, some conversions may not have been authentic from the start.

Last week, media outlets broke the news that Norma McCorvey, “Jane Roe” of *Roe v. Wade*, revealed to a documentary filmmaker prior to her death that her much-heralded pro-life conversion was “all an act.” McCorvey saw her “act” as being mutually beneficial: “I was the Big Fish [for the pro-life movement]. ... I think it was a mutual thing. I took their money and they took me out in front of the cameras and told me what to say. That’s what I’d say.” In McCorvey’s true opinion, she claimed, “If a young woman wants to have an abortion—fine. ... That’s no skin off my [rear end]. You know, that’s why they call it ‘choice.’ It’s your *choice*” [emphasis in original].

At this point, we have no way to further investigate McCorvey’s motives or statements. What she told the filmmaker will have to stand as her self-professed “deathbed confession,” although it’s not entirely unfair to question the veracity of a statement that follows an admission of being willing to say whatever one is paid to say. We can only hope and pray for Norma McCorvey that she made her peace with God before her death.

McCorvey’s break with the pro-life movement, and possibly with her Catholic Faith, isn’t the only high-profile apostasy in recent years. Italian journalist, Magdi Allam, who was baptized Catholic by Benedict XVI in 2008, left the Church in 2013, claiming that the Church

Catholics in a Post-Covid-19 World

The Church has seen many disasters, and has risen to meet the challenge

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, giving isolated people more time on their hands to think about the state of the world, experts already are spinning out speculation on what a post-pandemic world will look like. In March, Politico gathered a roundtable of secular experts, who commented on changes in society from health and science, to elections, to entertainment. While there was broad agreement that we don't yet know what the future holds, there were also fascinating points of divergence on the details.

For example, Deborah Tannen, a linguistics specialist, thought that "the comfort of being in the presence of others might be replaced by a greater comfort with absence, especially with those we don't know intimately." By contrast, historian Mary Frances Berry recalled that many survivors of the Spanish flu of 1918–1919 found relief from their post-pandemic cares in the social hedonism of the Roaring Twenties.

More recently, Catholic News Service interviewed a representative of the U.S. Bishops Conference about what American Catholics can expect when parishes reopen for Mass and the sacraments. Fr. Andrew Menke, executive director of the USCCB's Secretariat of Divine Worship, advised Catholics not to expect conditions to be the same across the country:

It isn't really possible to have national guidelines. ... Circumstances are different in different places. Different places are in different stages in the evolution of the crisis. And you have practical differences in what's happening in urban areas than that in rural areas. ... Different bishops may have different thoughts on how best to serve their people in these odd circumstances.

While it's easy to feel overwhelmed in the face of an unknown future, Catholics have an advantage over their secular counterparts in guessing what the future holds. They can look back to the death of God himself—the most cataclysmic, earth-shaking event the world has known—and learn from it how the world went on.

The day Christ died very likely appeared to those who lived through it to be the end of the world. The midday skies darkened for three hours; the veil in the Temple was torn apart, top to bottom, as if rent by unseen hands; a massive earthquake struck Jerusalem, splitting apart rocks; graves opened and released the dead to new life (Matt. 27:45–53). Witnesses



coincidences; they knew that something consequential was happening, that Jesus of Nazareth must have been exactly who he said he was, the Son of God (Matt. 27:54).

At the end of the day, though, what did the witnesses do? They buried the dead and retreated to their homes to observe the Sabbath. They observed the restrictions imposed by their religious tradition to refrain from work over the holiday (Matt. 27:57–60). But at first light on Sunday, some of them went out to Christ's tomb to finish anointing his body (Matt. 28:1). There they found that the world had changed again: the tomb was empty; Christ had broken the bonds of death.

Over the next forty days, the disciples seemed to drop back into a normal routine. They gathered to share accounts of their sightings of Jesus (Luke 24:33–34), they went to Galilee to resume their work as fishermen (John 21:2–3), they went to the temple for prayers (Luke 24:53). And Jesus would appear to them, to groups large and small (1 Cor. 15:3–8), usually around mealtime (Luke 24:30–31, 41–43; John 21:9–12), teaching them and preparing them for his departure (Matt. 28:16–20, John 21:15–22 Acts 1:3–8). The disciples' lives went on, but they had the Lord with them.

Then the world changed again. After the joy of Jesus' Resurrection, the disciples watched him leave again, ascending into heaven. They weren't despondent this time. Jesus had given them instructions, purpose, and hope. They would go back to Jerusalem to wait, as Jesus directed them to do (Luke 24:49), and to prepare for Shavuot (Acts 2:1). The disciples gathered around Jesus' Mother to pray (Acts 1:14) and to choose a successor to take the place of Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:21–26). When the Holy Spirit descended on Shavuot, Christ's disciples were ready to get to work (Acts 2:2–4).

How do you take the gospel to "all nations" (Matt. 28:19–20)? The disciples might have been overwhelmed at the charge to bring the whole world to Christ. But they responded one step at a time. After the Holy Spirit filled them, Peter went outside and started preaching (Acts 2:14). The disciples with him started baptizing. By the end of the day, on

didn't conclude that this was merely a random set of

that first Pentecost, "there were added that day about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). And every day thereafter, "the Lord added to their number ... those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

Rebuilding the world after disaster strikes is never simple or easy. It requires communal dedication and personal sacrifice, willingness to put others' needs above our own wants, and commitment to hard work over the years ahead. The Church though, from its founding on, has been continually rebuilding the world, from one disaster to the next.

The early Church was engulfed by persecution and heresy. Ordinary Christians stood fast for their faith, to the point of death, while the Church Fathers sought to clarify the content of that faith for the generations to come. When civilization fell apart after the fall of Rome, desert ascetics and European monks preserved knowledge and rebuilt culture. Modern Europe rose in no small part thanks to the monks who cleared land, planted and harvested crops, and inspired the construction of towns and cities around their religious houses.

When plague hit Europe in the fourteenth century, saints ministered to the sick and dying, creating the modern hospital system we know today. Recovery from the Black Death was slow and arduous, and there were plenty of mistakes along the way that contributed to the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century. But the Reformation inspired the Catholic Counter-Reformation, which in turn laid the foundation for evangelizing the New World.

We can't see too far into the future, and so we don't yet know what the Church and the world will look like after Covid-19. What we do know is that the Church has been through disaster before and has continually met the challenges of adapting to the changing world and rebuilding civilization for future generations. From the passion, death, and resurrection of its founder, the Church has cycled through endless Good Fridays to Easter Sundays in the twenty centuries of the Christian era.

What we have is Jesus' promise that we won't face the future without him. What we know is that he will be with us "always, to the close of the age" (Matt. 28:20). The state of the world might seem impossible, now, but Christ assured us that "with God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26).

https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/catholics-in-a-post-covid-19-world?utm_source=Catholic%20Answers%20Weekly&utm_campaign=ae7750a401-CAWeekly050920&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_854f87e44b-ae7750a401-213208757&mc_cid=ae7750a401&mc_eid=b70d22d586

What to Do When Other People Aren't Social Distancing



I was recently on our afternoon hike with my wife and kids, dutifully wearing our masks and observing social distancing guidelines. Suddenly a runner without a mask passed us from behind, huffing and puffing his breath cloud into our shared air as he came within two or three feet of us. I was irritated that a person potentially could expose us to the coronavirus when we were doing our best to protect ourselves and others.

If you're being strict with your social distancing, chances are there are people around you who are being less careful. While the majority of Americans seem to understand the need to limit contact with others to slow the spread of the coronavirus, people vary widely in their social distancing practices.

Maybe you wear a face mask religiously in public, while many around you go maskless. Or maybe some people seem oblivious to the six-foot distance guidelines that you faithfully observe.

You might be more careful about social distancing than some of your friends and neighbors, or even the people you live with. Maybe your spouse doesn't take the virus as seriously as you do, or your teenaged kids act like you're freaking out for no reason and ignore your pleas to social distance.

What can you do if you find yourself in a situation where others seem to be throwing caution to the wind?

Safety Considerations

First, be very careful about confronting a stranger about their social distancing practices. This topic is highly charged and has become a major point of contention in the debate about how and when to restart the economy.

Attempts to change others' behavior could potentially trigger a violent reaction, as has happened several times. You also risk prolonging contact with someone who is at an

elevated risk for carrying the coronavirus, given their disregard for social distancing; if they approach you and start yelling, you could get infected.

If you notice a persistent problem, contact those who are responsible for the space—for example, the manager of your grocery store or the authorities who oversee your local trails.

Beware of Catastrophizing

Keep in mind that the risk is low for contracting COVID-19 from very small deviations in the social distancing guidelines. For example, if a fellow hiker stumbles and briefly comes within five feet of you, it's unlikely you've just contracted the virus (which would also depend on their carrying it). While it might be frustrating to feel like others aren't doing all they can to keep their distance, avoid making yourself more distressed than necessary.

Be Generous

I recently discovered that a family member and I had very different views on what constituted effective social distancing. We follow very similar practices, which I believed to be close to 100 percent compliant with the recommendations, while they saw us as being more like 89 percent compliant. I was shocked to learn that what I saw as an A+, they gave a B+! So those who are less careful than you might think they're doing a bang-up job of social distancing.

Aim to make the kindest possible interpretation for why others aren't being as scrupulous about social distancing. It may not be that they're "selfish," "arrogant," or "uninformed". They might just have a different understanding of risk and of the need to take precautions and might think they're actually being quite careful.

Maybe they think, for example, that it's okay to get close to you in the grocery store since you're both wearing masks (though the CDC guidelines say to "keep at least 6 feet between yourself and others, even when you wear a face covering"). Similarly, many people don't seem to know that their leashed pets also need to maintain social distance. Making a different judgment about the reason behind their behavior can make you feel less upset by it (even if the actions themselves are no less risky).

Communicate Honestly to Loved Ones

Let friends or family members know if you're concerned about their social distancing

practices. You may not change their minds or their behavior, but at least you'll know you did what you could to protect them and those they encounter.

Be clear and firm about where your boundaries are. Don't feel pressured to change your behavior if local family or friends try to convince you to hang out with them. Even if they say you're being "ridiculous" or "paranoid," you don't have to compromise what you believe is right and what you're comfortable with.

The biggest challenge may come when you and a family member you live with don't see eye to eye on social distancing. Talk openly with your loved one about your concern, using positive assertive communication:

- **Take ownership for your thoughts and feelings, rather than making accusations.** For example, say, "I worry that you're going to bring the virus home to Grandpa," rather than, "You're being really stupid and selfish."

- **Say what's on your mind as calmly and rationally as possible.** The fear you feel about the virus will likely lead to anger, but an aggressive tone will just put the other person on the defensive and lead nowhere.

Listen to the other person's perspective. Try to understand their thoughts and feelings, rather than listening only for what you disagree with. You may not agree with their conclusions, but it helps to know where they're coming from. If they feel truly heard they may also be more willing to consider changing their behavior.

Control What You Can

Trying to make others do what you want is unlikely to work and usually only leads to frustration. Ultimately you can only control yourself. You can't force your fellow pedestrians to give a wide berth on sidewalks and trails, for example, but you can take measures to stay as far from them as possible. You might need to limit your exposure to public spaces to the least busy times of day or avoid narrow trails that make distancing difficult.

Remind yourself of the value of accepting the limits of what you can control. This requires a deep level of acceptance, which doesn't mean resignation. You can care about this issue a great deal, even as you acknowledge that your control is limited.

https://blogs.webmd.com/mental-health/20200514/what-to-do-when-other-people-arent-social-distancing?ecd=wnl_spr_052520&ctr=wnl-spr-052520_nsl-LeadModule_title&mb=pqtlPeRE3HTVr7xsLzaVGeHnVev1imbCUQSMd4vRRdc%3d

CCCB Launches New Website

Friday, May 29, 2020

Ottawa – Visitors to the website of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) – www.cccb.ca – will notice significant improvements. The website welcomes between 10,000 and 15,000 users each month. New and returning visitors will appreciate a fresh and visually attractive layout, improved navigation based on a thematic organization using broad categories to appeal to a wider audience, and upgraded compatibility of the site for multiple devices to improve visitor experience when clicking, or swiping, from page to page to page.

The release of the new site follows an extensive and thorough review to streamline the content and to create a comprehensive destination for users to find relevant information and resources. The completion of this major initiative was supported by a generous donation from the *Ex corde foundation*.

“The Bishops of Canada recognize the critical importance of a website as one of the ways to teach, inform, and evangelize the community of Canadian Catholic faithful,” said CCCB President Archbishop Richard Gagnon. “A change to the Conference’s website was therefore needed as the breadth of material available on our site has grown exponentially since we first established a presence on the Internet twenty-five years ago. What you will see now is a site that is not only attractive, but is more intuitive and user-friendly for those seeking information about the Conference itself, our pastoral initiatives, and our ecclesial resources.”

While visiting www.cccb.ca, look for easily accessible links to the CCCB’s other electronic communication channels – notably the free [e-mail news service](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) – and be sure to subscribe to all three for the latest updates.



The **St. Andrew School of Evangelization** is a Catholic ministry of lay people and clergy, evangelizing, proclaiming the gospel in the model of the apostle St. Andrew. This year, enrich your faith and experience a fuller love of our Lord, through an experience from SASE.

New Life online videos are available for Free –
speak to Fr. J. Mario.

**We are not all in
the same boat.**



**We are all in the
same storm.**

The **St. Andrew School of Evangelization**

is a Catholic ministry of lay people and clergy, evangelizing, proclaiming the gospel in the model of the apostle St. Andrew.

St. Andrew, upon encountering the Christ, first went to get his brother Simon Peter. (ref. John 1:35-42)

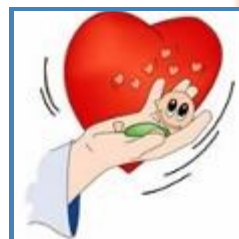
We want to bring the 'Simon Peters' of the world to Jesus, who will serve, preach, and love our Lord Jesus more, and better than ourselves, being bold witnesses of the saving message of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

This is the Canadian National English site, hosted by the SASE school located in Belleville, Ontario, Canada. It is the English language 'arm', of the Canadian National Office of the St. Andrew School of Evangelization (CNO-SASE), founded in Quebec City, Quebec: École d'évangélisation Saint-André (EESA).

The St. Andrew School of Evangelization is not specifically a building or a campus. It is an international organization, with over 2,000 'schools' located in over 63 countries, on 5 continents.

This year, enrich your faith and experience a fuller love of our Lord, through an experience from SASE.

Your life as a beloved child of God, as a follower of Jesus Christ, will never be the same!



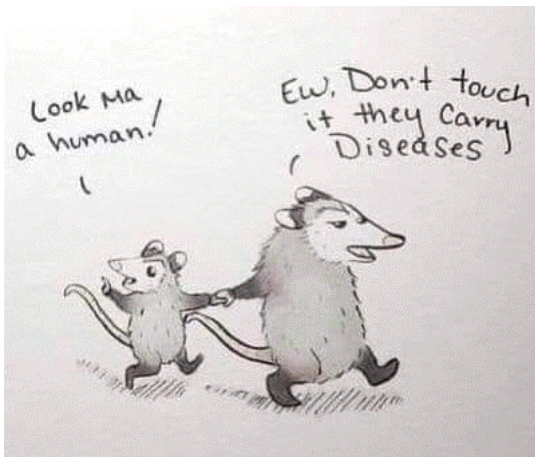
How do you tell God no? How do you look into the face of truth and say, 'That's nice, but it will cause me problems?' I said yes, and that yes has cost me dearly. But deep down in my heart is a passion for our Lord and a love for his Church. I love the Church—that sweet, holy, sanctifying Bride of Christ. I love the bishops, the priests, the nuns, the smells, and the bells. I love it all because I have discovered it. It has cost me much, but thank God I'm home at last! —**Deacon Alex Jones**
from *Testimony to Truth*

NO, I'M NOT COMING DOWN!

We've been on 20 walks today. Leave me alone.



When dog groomers go into lockdown, and customers are left to their own devices



Bob cat



I don't want to alarm anyone, but I think this church just challenged Jesus to a fight.



I washed my hands so many times, I found the answers to my 8th grade social studies test.

